Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-94-069
Monday
11 April 1994

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FBIS-EEU-94-069 *11 April 1994*

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'Greek Terrorist Commando' Attacks Army Center

NC1104073694 Paris AFP in English 2314 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Tirana, April 11 (AFP)—Two soldiers were killed and several wounded in an attack early Sunday by a "Greek terrorist commando" on an Albanian army centre near the border, Albanian television reported citing an official communique. It said six or seven people "armed with automatic rifles" and wearing Greek military uniforms had crossed the border near Peshkepia in the southern district of Gjirokastra.

Quoting a law and order ministry communique, it said that at 02:30 a.m. the Greeks had entered an army recruit training centre four kilometers (2.5 miles) from the border. Two of the attackers killed soldier Arben Gjini, 20, while the others went into a dormitory and opened fire on the sleeping soldiers. An officer, Fatmi Shehu, was killed and three other soldiers were badly wounded. Several other men sustained minor wounded.

One of the attackers spoke Albanian but with the accent of the Greek minority concentrated in the south of the country, the communique said.

The commando escaped and fled back to Greece. All the evidence pointed to they having come from Greece, the communique said.

The Albanian foreign ministry protested at what it called a "criminal act premeditated by Greek special forces". It said the Greek government "must bear responsibility" for the attack. Sunday's incident was the most serious in recent years between Albania and Greece whose disagreement centres on the fate of the Greek Orthodox Christian minority in Albania.

In July, Greece expelled around 20,000 Albanian workers following the expulsion by Tirana of an Orthodox priest alleged to have advocated unification of ethnic Greeksin southern Albania with Greece. About 200,000 Albanians are believed to be living illegally in Greece.

Meanwhile in Athens the Northern Epirus Liberation Front (Malvi) claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement to the ELEVTHEROTIPIA newspaper published Monday. The group said it had been forced into the attack by the "criminal indifference of the Greek state" towards the plight of the Greek minority in Albania.

Northern Epirus is the Greek nationalist name for the southern region where most of Albania's Greek minority is concentrated.

The statement condemned the "conspiracy of silence which had condemned to fatalism our nationality question and our brothers in Northern Epirus." The attack was an attempt to transform the "catastrophic situation" of the Greek minority that had led to Malvi's creation, the statement said.

According to Athens some 400,000 ethnic Greeks live in Albania, but Tirana puts the figure at 60,000.

NATO Delegation Arrives on Official Visit

AU0704204294 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A high-level NATO delegation led by General George Joulwan, supreme commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, arrived in Tirana today on an official visit. The high-level NATO official was received at Rinas airport, according to NATO protocol, by Defense Minister Safet Zhulali, the chief of the Army General Staff, and other top Defense Ministry officials. The ambassadors of NATO countries and military attaches of NATO missions in Tirana were also present at the welcoming ceremony at the airport.

The arrival in Tirana of the supreme commander of the Allied Forces in Europe was assessed by foreign and domestic observers as a meaningful gesture toward our country. According to them, General Joulwan's visit to Tirana will strengthen the foundation of the close military cooperation between Albania and the Atlantic alliance. This cooperation is believed to be improving with this visit.

Meanwhile, official talks between the two delegations presided over by Zhulali and Joulwan have started at the Defense Ministry. The supreme commander and our defense minister plan to hold a meeting after the open talks.

Zhulali on Membership, Integration

AU0704204394 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Official talks between Defense Minister Safet Zhulali and General George Joulwan have taken place at the Defense Ministry. Greeting the high-ranking NATO guest, Minister Zhulali said that his visit to Albania is an historic moment that will give new impetus to Albania's cooperation with NATO and will have its own effects in the region, discouraging all those who attempt to destabilize it.

Zhulali noted that since the beginning of the democratic processes, Albania has requested membership in NATO. After the establishment of the democratic government, such a demand was presented officially, because Albania morally feels itself to be a NATO member and is ready to undertake concrete steps in this direction.

We are aware that our standards do not correspond to those of NATO, but we have the same democratic values. We are sure that your assistance will not be absent. Thus, we will achieve what we want, Minister Zhulali told his interlocutor.

Within this framework President Berisha has signed the Partnership For Peace [PFP] plan, considering it to be an active process that will lead toward Albania's integration into NATO.

One of the reasons I chose Albania for my first trip abroad, General Joulwan pointed out, is precisely related to your speedy commitment to the PFP plan. As a commander, I

am interested in the documents of the presentation into this partnership, which will determine the course that you will follow, which will be an Albanian program and for Albania, respecting its sovereignty.

He assessed the support that Albania has given to UN Security Council resolutions on former Yugoslavia and NATO operations and expressed his support for the democratization process that Albania is following.

The exchange of symbolic presents from both parties was assessed as a sign of friendship between NATO and Albania. [passage omitted]

Joulwan Offers 'Gradual Integration'

AU0704204594 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] President Berisha received General George Joulwan, supreme commander of the Allied Forces in Europe and chief commander of the U.S. Forces in Europe.

Your visit is a very important event for Albania's cooperation with NATO. First, I want to greet you and Admiral Boorda personally for the successful operation in the skies of Bosnia, which will remain historic, as it marked the beginning of the functioning of NATO in a new role, President Berisha said to General Joulwan.

I want to show you, President Berisha continued, that the Albanian Army feels deep admiration for NATO as a defender of democratic values, security, and peace. The Albanian military are persistently working to adopt the standards of this alliance. We were the first to request NATO membership and today we powerfully support the Partnership for Peace as a dynamic and natural process for achieving membership of this Alliance.

Albania is determined to take part in all NATO structures defined by the Partnership for Peace and is ready to conduct joint maneuvers with countries or groups of countries which are members of NATO. Albania seeks NATO assistance to prepare peacekeeping troops or forces participants in humanitarian operations and it also reconfirms its readiness to ensure NATO access to all air and port facilities on the Albanian territory to accomplish the mission of the alliance.

General Joulwan stressed that he admires Albania's great changes in these two years and considers that the work done for the deep transformation of Albania from a dictatorial into a democratic state was a patriotic deed. He pointed out that Albania has a broad and key strategic position for NATO, and in this framework, the alliance is open for cooperation with Albania.

Regarding the situation in Bosnia, President Berisha said that we have supported the federation as a road that leads to peace, but we are worried because Serbia is refusing this solution. We think that it would help the peace if Russia could manage to convince the Bosnian Serbs to sign the Washington agreement, which presents a real option for the establishment of peace in Bosnia. This will complete the political solution to the crisis in the region.

Regarding the situation in Kosova, it remains tense and on the eve of conflict. In this direction, the presence of U.S. forces in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and the increase of this presence in the region is very welcome. Albania, the president continued, is engaged to avoid the conflict, but every violent cleansing of Albanians implies regional conflict.

On his part, General Joulwan offered the Alliance's support for Albania's active engagement in the Partnership for Peace framework and its gradual integration into all NATO structures and levels.

Berov Discharged, Declared 'Fit for Work'

AU0804170094 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Today the group of consultants treating Prime Minister Lyuben Berov decided to discharge the prime minister from the hospital because his hospital treatment has been successfully concluded. The condition of the prime minister's cardiovascular system has been stabilized, and it is the view of the consultants that the prime minister is fit for work.

BSP Leader Predicts Cabinet Changes

AU0804193794 Sofia NOVINI 5 in Bulgarian 1 Apr 94 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Bulgarian Socialist Party leader Zhan Videnov by Rozalina Evdokimova; place and date not given: "Urgent Changes in Government Are Needed"]

[Excerpts] [Evdokimova] Mr. Videnov, do you see a coincidence between the interview President Zhelev gave to the BBC British radio station and the arrival of observers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Bulgaria, who will analyze the political situation and "recommunization" in Bulgaria?

[Videnov] I do not think that there is such a connection, however, it is obvious that ideological statements and scholastic disputes, as well as deliberately fanning confrontation rather than discussing the real socioeconomic problems of the Bulgarians today, are a basic issue for President Zhelev, and for people who do not know our country's reality. It is not strange that foreigners assume such a position. They are far away from the country's reality and not especially concerned with its real problems. However, the position of the president is absolutely inadmissible for any head of state.

[Evdokimova] Mr. Zhelev devoted a lot of space in his interview to the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] and the situation in our country. Speaking about the BSP's support for the cabinet, Mr. Zhelev said that this is nothing else but a road leading to new elections, already in the fall. What could you say about this?

[Videnov] The fact that the cabinet relies on the BSP despite the fact that Berov's cabinet contains many BSP opponents from the near and remote past, implies that the BSP is a highly responsible, state-responsible, and competent party, capable of participating in the government (unlike the other parties, which regardless of the people's vote results, are unable of translating this vote to governing). I include among these parties the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] that President Zhelev likes so much, and even the president himself, as former SDS leader. Within the framework of the confidence received by the people in 1991 the BSP helps the country to resolve its most urgent problems. It is the success or failure of these efforts that will determine when Bulgaria will head toward new elections. It must be pointed out that these are the efforts of the entire country, rather than the efforts of a single party or the government. [passage omitted]

[Evdokimova] The BSP is being ever more frequently accused of being responsible for the economic and social situation that emerged in the country, and for supporting a cabinet that cannot do its job. What could you say about this?

[Videnov] The situation could be corrected through early parliamentary elections. If someone thinks that he is ready for such a step toward decisively improving the situation in the country, let him convince the people that they should participate in such a step. However, the people are not convinced of this. It is not clear what early elections could contribute to the country. As long as the cabinet remains within the framework of its program and tries to move things forward, it could rely on a certain parliamentary consensus. This support will be denied when the cabinet fails. [passage omitted]

[Evdokimova] Will you demand personnel changes in the cabinet?

[Videnov] Of course. They are absolutely necessary and should have been effected immediately after the budget was adopted. The changes have been postponed because of the prime minister's illness, however, they will become topical again, as soon as next week.

Cooperation Talks With FYROM Delegation

AU0804171294 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] On 8 April, at the Council of Ministers, a working meeting took place between governmental delegations of the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and the Republic of Bulgaria, led by Deputy Prime Ministers Jovan Andonov and Valentin Karabashev, the Government Press Center reports.

Implementing the 1993 agreements between the two countries and the updated protocol signed on 15 March in Sofia was discussed. The delegations also discussed certain problems regarding the transit of goods through our country, improving the handling capacity of the border checkpoints, constructing a railroad between Gyueshevo and Kumanovo, and improving cooperation between the oil refineries of the two republics.

A readiness exists to sign soon in Skopje agreements on avoiding double taxation and mutual protection and encouragement of investments.

UN, NATO Decision for Air Strike Supported

LD1104130794 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1200 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The Czech Foreign Ministry reacted to Sunday's [10 April] NATO air strike on Serbian positions near the eastern Bosnian town of Gorazde. Czech Radio received the ministry's statement from ministry's press spokesman Vit Kurfuerst.

The Czech Foreign ministry supports yesterday's decision by the UN and NATO on the air strike in the vicinity of Gorazde, which was done in full accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. The Foreign Ministry is concerned about the continuing escalation of fighting in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Gorazde, which has been declared a security zone by Security Council Resolution 824. Of special concern are the intensifying artillery attacks against Gorazde, which lead not only to civilian suffering but also to the immediate threat on the UN military observers.

The Foreign Ministry considers the NATO air strike coordinated by the United Nations as another warning signal to the initiators of this conflict and appeals to Bosnian Serb leaders not to reject a return to the negotiating table. The Foreign Ministry considers yesterday's action as further confirmation of the credibility of UN attempts to settle the situation in former Yugoslavia peacefully. Further extension of war acts could thwart the results of international attempts for the peaceful settlement achieved so far and bring the situation in the whole crisis area to a head.

Havel on Sudeten Germans, von Weizsacker

LD1004162694 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1215 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Vaclav Havel by Czech Radio editor Robert Tamchyna at Havel's private residence at Hradecek; date not given: from the "Conversations at Lany" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Tamchyna] Are you really remote from political activities here at Hradecek? I saw a helicopter with Rudolf Scharping, chairman of the German Social Democratic Party, land close to your cottage. It occurred to me that the subject of your talks was probably urgent when you received your guest at the time of your convalescence, and, on top of it, your meeting was longer than originally expected.

[Havel] I am very grateful to Mr. Scharping that, in spite of his very full program, he came all the way here. I admit that I quite like to talk about certain things with certain politicians in this type of total privacy. It contributes to the talks being more confidential, more open-minded, and also more sincere. The talks made a very good impression on me. Rudolf Scharping is a man belonging to a younger generation. He is 11 years younger than I, and he seems to be a dynamic politician. Of course, we talked about general matters related to Europe, to the European security arrangements, Russia, the European Union, and so on. However, great attention was also paid to bilateral questions, especially to the two rather sensitive subjects—the Sudeten German question and the matter of compensation.

To inform him, I summarized all the developments around all the negotiations that have taken place up until now. I do not want to be specific. It would be premature. However, I can definitely say that I found in Rudolf Scharping a very sensitive partner in these matters, a very understanding partner, and we understood each other very well. [passage omitted]

[Tamchyna] A very interesting and important meeting of six European presidents is awaiting you at Litomysl next week [15-16 April]. Among other things, you are expected unofficially to thank German President Richard von Weizsacker. Is it only my impression that you have been very close to each other also outside the scope of politics?

[Havel] I hold President Weizsacker in very high esteem. I think we are bound by good friendship. I had some contact with him long before I became president and before the fall of communism. It was understandably only written contact. We often talked about a great variety of things, and I am also thankful for his help because, in the early stages of my presidency, he managed to give me good advice in some difficult moments. I think he is a great politician who has substantially contributed to Germany's trustworthiness precisely in the crucial period of the fall of communism, of the beginnings of German unification, when fears started to appear about great Germany. We know well enough that many people and many politicians—secretly and even openly, by public statements—did not really wish for unification of Germany. They feared that Germany would be too great, too powerful, and too dominant on the European scene. Although as president, Weizsacker's power is limited, he has proved a lot by his words, by the stature of his pronouncements and deeds. He has really done a lot for Germany's credibility precisely in this crucial period. I think he really deserves a thank you from the presidents of the neighboring countries for everything he has done for the good relations between Germany and its neighbors.

[Tamchyna] What are you going to take to Litomysl? It was announced that substantial political talks were not expected. Is it possible to move on at a summit of this kind?

[Havel] It depends on our understanding of substantial political talks. None of us thinks that this meeting is going to be a founding meeting of some new international group, nor do we expect that some international initiative or declaration will be issued or treaties and pacts signed. Nothing of the sort. The intention is to discuss some matters of principle but to discuss them within the context of unofficial presidential debate. I said in Salzburg that it was the duty of governments and executives to debate all everyday, specific political matters related to interstate relations, but the duty of presidents, which stems also from their constitutional position, is something different. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister on 1994 Budget Performance

LD0804184194 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] The Czech Republic's budget shows a surplus of 4.9 billion Czech korunas at the end of the first three months of 1994. This was announced by Ivan Kocarnik, deputy prime minister and minister of finance, today. Ales Hermanek has more details.

[Hermanek] According to Minister Kocarnik, the size of the surplus gives no cause for exaggerated optimism.

[Begin Kocarnik recording] The surplus is given by the fact that expenditures in the first three months of 1994 are lower than should be for the corresponding part of 1994 budget expenses. Let us say that three months represent roughly 25 percent, even though this is not true in absolute figures. Still, taking this 25 percent as the basis, budget expenditures amounted to 22 percent of the envisaged annual expenditures, and the revenue represents 23.4 percent of the envisaged annual revenue. I am therefore very cautious when assessing these results because the revenue side of the budget remained below the one-quarter of annual revenue. [end recording]

[Hermanek] The lower-than-planned revenue was caused mainly by low VAT [value-added tax] collection. According to Minister Kocarnik, this was caused by higher business expenses at the end of last year and the subsequent application of a reduced tax in this year. [sentence as heard]

Another cause for the high budget surplus is the surplus in clearing payments with Slovakia amounting to 2.1 billion korunas. However, this figure keeps going down. It was still double the present figure some three months ago.

Kocarnik was, however, very optimistic in his assessment of the GDP development for last year and this year.

[Begin Kocarnik recording] I think that the key issue is that economic performance is stabilizing and that we have good reason to expect that economic growth has begun in the first three months. Of course, this can also be attributed to the fact that the first three months of last year were especially bad. We expect that, in comparison with the first three months of last year, the GDP for the first three months of 1994 will be higher by 5-6 percent. [end recording]

Klaus Addresses Trade Union Congress

LD0804160694 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 0928 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Speech by Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus to the First Congress of the Bohemian-Moravian Chamber of Trade Unions in the Palace of Culture in Prague—live]

[Excerpts] The government does not have the slightest doubt about the mission of the trade unions, and it would be a mistake to accuse it of this. At this moment, I would like to talk about our—and I repeat our—view on the role of trade unions on a large-scale level between trade union leadership and government. I have repeatedly spoken in favor of a relationship of consultations, in favor of informing each other, in favor of listening to each other, and, thanks to it all, in favor of mutual enrichment.

The government does not have a monopoly on knowledge, and therefore it listens carefully, and I can assure you that also in the future it will listen to trade unions' objections and suggestions regarding legislation as well as our country's economic and social policy.

The government is searching for a basic consensus of the population regarding the main issues of our current as well as our future situation and is aware of the exceptionally important role of the trade unions in this. We therefore respect the existence of the Council of Economic and Social Accord and will make every effort to continue negotiations within its framework, even though the privatization is radically changing the role of the government and the state as an employer.

We will continue submitting proposals for partial changes in tripartite negotiations, but I would like to stress here, in front of you, that we do not call for any revolution or for radical changes. I therefore believe that there is no need to dramatize the partial differences of opinion that exist on these issues. [passge omitted]

I believe everyone is aware that both our rate of inflation and the unemployment level are the lowest of all the postcommunist countries, and, in most cases, they are significantly lower.

I also believe that, in the recent period, there were no developments in our labor legislation that would really aggravate an employee's situation. I believe the recent, rather sharp controversy between the government and the trade unions on this matter is nothing more and nothing less than different opinions on one and the very same matter, and that this difference of opinion is common and one that exists legitimately in every democratic society.

I cannot agree with the opinion that the trade unions have to face insensitive politicians and deputies, as voiced at your recent rally. I can say, with full responsibility, that a number of requests by trade unions concerning the most varied issues have been accepted by the government recently. I cannot accept the accusations that we are not able, I quote, to listen to people, and that we retreat into office chambers, foreign limousines, and empty sentences because this simply is not true.

We, but not only we, may not succeed in everything. It is not true, though, that we are not trying to achieve the maximum possible contact with the citizens of our country, to listen to what they have to say.

I also disagree with the statement that we do not show social feeling because we have taken and continue to take on an everyday basis dozens of social measures. [passage omitted]

I am convinced and believe that many of you have the same view that we are implementing the profound and

very much needed social change as quickly as we can and with the lowest possible costs for us all. Therefore, I cannot agree either with a statement pronounced at your recent protest rally that, as citizens, we had democratically voted for belt-tightening. I would like to say that we have voted for nothing of the sort. [passage omitted]

When I hear that this belt is getting rather dangerously tight for rather too many people, I cannot agree with that, either. [passage omitted] I am convinced that, in 1994, we will witness general economic growth in the form of a several-percentage-point increase in the gross domestic product, and that this will enable a further increase in real wages. I do not see any reasons the increase in real wages should not continue in the coming years. When I say this, I also say at the same time, with the same breath, that we are well aware of the imbalance in the economic and wage development in our country as well as some remaining social problems that some of our fellow citizens have to struggle with. For that reason, we are trying in every possible way—and I believe that in the majority of cases our views are not different from those of the trade unions—to improve our social policy. Not at the cost of our future but on the basis of our current possibilities and our active work.

I know that the trade unions do not like the introduction of wage regulation, but, after the excesses of a too rapid increase in wages in some enterprises in the past two years, this measure was unfortunately necessary. I believe that the selected very careful degree of regulation enables two main things. It enables the growth of real wages and the necessary wage differentiation between successful and less successful enterprises and between more and less efficient employees. This is the most important thing for all of us today becaquse a sensible level of wages is the most important prerequisite for the preservatin of the current low unemployment rate and for the overall success of our postcommunist era.

I believe that our views on these and many other issues do not differ too much from those of the trade unionists. I believe that what was said at your recent protest rally, to the effect that, in the next elections, we will make a better choice, was meant as rhetorical hyperbole and not as an expression of a responsible overall assessment of the situation in our country. [passage omitted]

Moravcik on Transformation, Election, IMF

LD0804205694 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Jozef Moravcik by Magda Pospisilova; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Pospisilova] In the last few days, the government has been working mainly on the summarization of its policy statement. It is not quite clear from the policy statement proposal so far to what concept of transformation the government is going to adhere. Is it going to be a shock method, or are you going to continue with what some people consider to be a more acceptable method for Slovakia?

[Moravcik] We tried to solve this matter unequivocally and express it in the programmatic statement of the government. We are concerned with a speedy transformation, with maintaining the budgetary deficit at a certain level, and we are also concerned for this transformation to be socially viable. These are the basic economic principles of the policy statement. [passage omitted]

[Pospisilova] Are the elections going to take place at the end of September and the beginning of October, as was agreed?

[Moravcik] We have no intention of lengthening this period. We consider the elections at the end of September and the beginning of October to be very necessary.

[Pospisilova] Negotiations with the IMF and World Bank representatives that have taken place here seem to point to a tangible change in their attitude toward Slovakia after the change of government. Suddenly, it seems to be possible to reach the set economic aims, not only by increasing taxes and by reducing social allowances, subsidies, and similar items, but also by a complex of interconnected active measures that are not limited by the six months' period. Should the credit for this go to the first woman deputy prime minister?

[Moravcik] Yes, she should also be credited for it. We have to add that Mrs. Snegnerova represents a certain type of economic and political view that is identical or very similar to the one represented by other economy ministers. [passage omitted]

We were very pleased when this economic program found response in the attitude of IMF representatives. It means that our political and economic considerations are gaining an international dimension, which is very important. It means that we have come closer to the global way of thinking.

[Pospisilova] Representatives of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement [MKDH] and others expressed dissatisfaction over your government's tardiness in clarifying illegal procedures of the so-called wild privatization of the former government of Vladimir Meciar. Vojtech Bugar [MKDH chairman] openly forecasts that, if you fail to clarify this matter by the fall elections, you would lose completely. Simultaneously, he asks what was then the point of voting the former government out of office.

[Moravcik] Deputies did not vote the government out of office to confront it now with its mistakes. We took this step in order to present a different policy, to introduce a different political style. Naturally, it is important to point out mistakes that were made. It must be said that, in the case of privatization, it is not such a simple matter because illegal steps were executed very cunningly. However, in the course of time, we will be able to show the public the real face of those who were privatizing in the previous government. [passage omitted]

[Pospisilova] This week's visit of your Czech counterpart, Vaclav Klaus, to Moscow drew attention not only because he answered in fluent Russian the questions put to him by the Russian editor during a live television broadcast, but also because of the interesting agreements he concluded at the talks with the Russian prime minister—in particular, the agreement on settling the Russian debt to the Czech Republic. Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Brigita Snegnerova already observed that you did not want to continue in the direction taken by the former government—namely, that the Russian debt to us would be paid, for example, only by increasing import of military technology. When then are you going to visit Moscow?

[Moravcik] We think that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will shortly come for a visit to Slovakia, as was agreed.

[Pospisilova] Jozef Prokes, honorary chairman of the Slovak National Party, said that your government was a traveling one because you agreed on so many foreign trips right at the beginning of your term, that they equal all the trips of Vladimir Meciar's Cabinet undertaken in the space of more than a year. If you are not going to Moscow, where are you going to go within these six months?

[Moravcik] My program is not yet clarified. It is being prepared. Concerning the reproach implied in your question, quoting Prokes, it is totally unjustified and, in principle, absurd because Slovakia is very dependent on foreign relations. To move developments in all areas here in Slovakia is not possible without very intensive foreign cooperation. It is the government's duty to develop these contacts and to align Slovakia into international relations.

[Pospisilova] Tomorrow's [9 April] Cabinet session will also discuss the final report on the application of law passed by the former federal parliament that deals with the return of the Communist Party assets to the people of the federal republic. This matter has been dragging on for three years, and rumors have started to circulate about how interesting it is that, after three years of quarrels, suddenly there is a chance to put a stop to it—and this only one month after the present government came to power, sharing it with seven ministers from the Party of the Democratic Left.

[Moravcik] This point will be discussed on Tuesday's [12 April] Cabinet meeting. A full stop must be put to all problems. We have to concentrate on business. [passage omitted]

Comments on Accord, Foreign Policy

WS0804140594 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 8 Apr 94 p 22

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Josef Moravcik by Andrzej Niewiadowski on 31 March; place not given: "We Must Depart From Confrontation"]

[Text] [Niewiadowski] Mr. Prime Minister, you are head of the new coalition government in the Slovak Republic; this government has "replaced" the much-criticized cabinet of Vladimir Meciar. How would you characterize the program of the governing coalition, and what guarantees can you see that this government will be more democratic?

[Moravcik] We have only six months at our disposal. We will have new elections in October, which is earlier than originally scheduled. Until that time, we want to change the style of governing. We must depart from the policy of confrontation that was pursued by Mr. Meciar. We want to establish conditions for cooperation among all interested political entities, and we are declaring this desire in our international relations as well.

[Niewiadowski] However, is it possible to reach a political consensus despite all of the programmatic differences in the new coalition, which is made up of both the Christian-Democratic Party, led by Jan Czarnogurski, the "center orientation," which is represented by yourself, and, finally, by the Democratic Left Party [SDL], chaired by Peter Weiss?

[Moravcik] We want to underscore whatever links the new coalition, not the differences. I do not agree with the opinion that the main reason for recalling the previous government was so- called anti-Meciarism. We simply had a different concept of governing.

[Niewiadowski] What exactly was this concept?

[Moravcik] The Meciar government was a government of improvisation, which we will try to avoid. In parliament on 12 April, I will submit a long-term program for overcoming the crisis in the country.

[Niewiadowski] Could you reveal the most basic points of this program?

[Moravcik] The most important thing will be the transformation of the Slovak economy. We must fairly rigorously adhere to the schedule in our contacts with international establishments. The point is to attract foreign capital. We must establish a system of guarantees that would make investment in Slovakia profitable; on the other hand, we must liberate the initiative of our own citizens.

[Niewiadowski] Are you also thinking about the privatization of the national wealth?

[Moravcik] Yes, we are. We want to return to the old federative concept of coupon privatization implemented, with small technical changes, in the Czech Republic. We want our citizens to have as much of the national wealth as possible.

[Niewiadowski] In the daily commentaries of the pro-Meciar daily RESPUBLIKA, the opposition accuses you of acting against the legislature because you have annulled the privatization contracts that have been signed so far. Can the law be retroactive? What is your response to this allegation?

[Moravcik] I cannot agree with it. We reviewed the privatization contracts that have recently been forced by the Meciar cabinet. We did this because we received information that, during the privatization process, party interests took precedence over the interests of the state. The people who were privatizing the national wealth were selected in line with the priorities of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS]. Whenever we came across a contract that—I want to stress this—was not in conformity with the binding legal norms, we had to annul it. Incidentally, it was not very difficult to find such contracts. The government of Mr. Meciar was in an awful hurry in its last days and committed legislative errors.

[Niewiadowski] Will the new Cabinet avoid such errors?

[Moravcik] The process of privatization will be accompanied by permanent control; the coupon privatization will make it possible for citizens to control the national wealth.

[Niewiadowski] Still, you are being severely criticized by Meciar, who has even formed a "shadow cabinet" made up of former ministers of his government. Do you not fear that the preelection campaign may reach the streets and that Meciar, as we already witnessed during a demonstration in front of parliament, will accuse you of destroying the state and will bring about a wave of nationalistic demonstrations?

[Moravcik] I would not overestimate the strength of Mr. Meciar. When Meciar was recalled for the first time in 1991, before the government of Jan Carnogursky was formed, tens of thousands of people gathered in the Slovak National Uprising square. There were far fewer this time. They were mostly fanatic supporters of Mr. Meciar. One cannot feel the need for confrontation in Slovakia. What seems to be wanted is the creation of the atmosphere of peace and awaiting the moves of the new government.

[Niewiadowski] These moves will also be of an international nature. What do you consider to be the priority in the relations with your closest neighbors? Let us start with the Czech Republic.

[Moravcik] We must resolve the open questions of the division of the federative national wealth and the issue of frontier rigor. We are interested in maintaining the customs union. These are the issues of paramount importance.

[Niewiadowski] What about your relations with Hungary?

[Moravcik] We must intensively seek a platform of agreement so as not to allow nationalistic trends to increase. From this point of view, cooperation with representatives of the Hungarian national minority, which is represented in the Slovak parliament by "Egyuttels" and the Hungarian Christian-Democratic Party, will be very important.

[Niewiadowski] What stand is Slovakia going to take on the increasingly more active foreign policy of Russia? Will it be similar in any way to Polish foreign policy?

[Moravcik] I believe that the basic directions of the foreign policies of both states are the same. Just like Poland, Slovakia would like the political situation in Russian to develop in the direction of democratic transformations. We can say the same about Ukraine.

We need a stable Ukraine very much because it is our neighbor, so it is our desire that the political and economic situation in this country be based on solid foundations. The maintenance of democracy in Russia and Ukraine is the best guarantee of our security.

[Niewiadowski] Is the orientation of Slovak foreign policy defined clearly and unequivocally?

[Moravcik] The new government will support the idea of Slovakia's integration into the structures of Western Europe as soon as possible. This is our principal strategic goal. What we want is to join both the Western European Union and NATO. I believe that the fundamental directions of the political strategy of Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland are very similar in this area. Thus, we can cooperate quite well within the Visegrad Group, because it would be a pity not to take advantage of the idea of this agreement. It is too bad that the concept of establishing a joint security system within this group has been put aside.

[Niewiadowski] Are you also for the institutionalization of the structures of this agreement?

[Moravcik] No, I do not think this is necessary. I believe that a system of regular consultations on the ministerial level would be sufficient.

[Niewiadowski] A lot has recently been said about economic cooperation between our states. On both sides of the border, considerable pressure can be felt to establish the "Tatra Region." Do you envision any concrete decisions on this issue within the next six months?

[Moravcik] I believe that there are no serious reasons that the "Tatra Region" should not be established and that it should not function properly. The government will discuss the materials left over by the cabinet of Mr. Meciar, and, with certain amendments, the entire project may be accepted by the Slovak party.

[Niewiadowski] What about over a dozen interministerial agreements that were supposed to be signed this year?

[Moravcik] We are ready to make a considerable step in this area to pass from purely verbal declarations to specifics. So far, a lot has been said about cooperation; in practice, however, it has looked different.

[Niewiadowski] After the 1993 elections, a leftist cabinet was formed in Poland. Do you think the left may win the Slovak elections as well?

[Moravcik] Most probably the left will not obtain such a number of votes as to be able to form a government that would have the support of a majority of parliament. The optimum solution for Slovakia would be to maintain the agreement of the present coalition, which has the character of a social consensus.

[Niewiadowski] Do you think Peter Weiss's SDL may run in the elections along with Vladimir Meciar's HZDS?

[Moravcik] This would be a tremendous failure for me. I believe that the SDL will be strong enough to transform itself into a modern party of a social democratic character.

[Niewiadowski] You are the representative of the "center orientation" and support the program of "democratic liberalism." However, the "center orientation" includes other parties as well: Milan Kniazko's "Association of Democrats" and Ludovit Cernak's National-Democratic Party, which considers itself to be the only heir to the Slovak national traditions and which is not concealing its conservative ambitions. Do you think it is possible for the entire "center orientation" to unite? Now, if the center is divided, Meciar will certainly gain more undecided voters....

[Moravcik] There exists such a danger. However, we must not forget the political reality. It is quite possible to unite the center partially—that is, agreement may be reached by the "Alternative of the Political Realism" and the "Association of Democrats." Both groupings will soon form the "Democratic Union of Slovakia." Yesterday (that is, on 30 March—editor's note) we decided to establish it. The "Union" will have a "liberal-democratic" character. The supporters of Cernak are further "to the right." All of the other "center" parties, however, will form a joint preelection front; there is already an agreement on that.

[Niewiadowski] If the coalition won the elections and you were once again asked to form a new government, would you accept such an offer?

[Moravcik] I have already said twice that I would not accept the post offered to me—first in March of last year, when I became foreign affairs minister in the Meciar government, and second, in March of this year, when President Michal Kovac said I should head this Cabinet. Well, if I were forced to change my opinion once again...

ΩNew Government Finds Pilferage, Irregularities

94P20616A

[Editorial Report] After assuming office on 16 March, the new Slovak Government, led by Jozef Moravcik, found itself confronted with the results of what it believes to be last-minute petty acts of pilferage on the part of the outgoing government of Vladimir Meciar, as well as evidence of questionable financial dealings by officials of the Meciar regime. These charges are contained in a 21 March ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY article by Ivan Rajecky, who writes that the new deputy prime minister, Ivan Simko, found his offices stripped of movable property, including even such insignificant items as coffee cups and water glasses. Labor Minister Julius Brocka was confronted with a work stoppage by ministry officials, who refused to serve under him because they "do not officially recognize" the Moravcik

government. According to Rajecky, Brocka did not manage to get even a cup of coffee on his first day in office.

As had been "predicted" by his predecessor, Roman Hofbauer, Transportation Minister Mikulas Dzurinda did not find even paper or pencils in his new office. What Dzurinda did find in his ministry, however, was former Minister Hofbauer ensconced in the civil-service position of deputy minister, having "mysteriously" been appointed by a state secretary who was at the time on an official visit to Greece. Rajecky also reported that, on taking office, many new ministers found gaps in official files and records.

According to Rajecky, the new government has discovered evidence that significant expenditures were made without proper parliamentary authorization, including a supplementary budget of 1.2 million korunas [Sk] obtained by former Prime Minister Meciar's secretariat director, Anna Nagy, and Sk1.3 million in unauthorized severance payments to government employees who had been fired by Meciar because they "did not share his views." Rajecky also alleged that the chairman of the Supreme Inspection Office, Marian Vanko, was found to have purchased 14 Audi automobiles off budget, two of which had apparently been loaned to the secretariat of Meciar's party, the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS). Rajecky reported that parliamentary investigations of these matters are planned.

According to an article in the 21 March ROLNICKE NOVINY, Privatization Minister Milan Janicin allegedly has evidence of at least 13 instances of illegal actions in privatization projects approved by the Meciar government in its last month in office. The Bratislava daily reports that Janicin has requested that the Finance Ministry freeze the National Property Fund's accounts and halt further property transfers until the issue is resolved.

Economy Minister on Moscow Negotiations

LD0904192594 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1630 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Slovak Economy Minister Peter Magvasi returned from Moscow last night. He signed a protocol there on trade and economic relations for 1994. Today, in Bratislava, he talked to journalists in greater detail about his negotiations in the Russian Federation, about whose markets a view prevails here that they are insolvent. Economy Minister Peter Magvasi was interviewed by our editor Ivan Bielko.

[Begin recording] [Bielko] Our trade balance with Russia has been negative in the past few years. Is it going to improve after your negotiations in Moscow?

[Magvasi] The protocol that I signed with Oleg Davydov, the Russian foreign economic relations minister, will open up some new opportunities for our enterprises to penetrate Russian markets.

[Bielko] For example?

[Magvasi] Above all, there is a chance for enterprises to open their own accounts in selected banks of the Russian Federation and in the Slovak Republic.

[Bielko] A view prevails here that the Russian market is insolvent. What about it?

[Magvasi] I think this is an opinion that prevailed from 1990-91, when it was true that the disintegration of the whole system in Russia did lead to the insolvency of some partners. On the other hand, today the position is clear. There are partners in Russia who are highly solvent. In view of the fact that the ruble is convertible and there is an opportunity for our Slovak businessmen to open their own accounts, there is far better payment security in trade with Russia than there is today within Slovakia—with insolvency there—and in trade with the Czech Republic. I consider this to be a decisive window of opportunity that our businessmen should exploit very intensively and immediately.

[Bielko] You held talks at the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy relating to supplies of nuclear fuel and to Russian participation in the reconstruction of Jaslovske Bohunice [nuclear energy plant in central Slovakia], as well as to some other issues.

[Magvasi] The Russian Federation confirmed its continuing interest in supplying nuclear fuel. Second, we reassessed the state of readiness of the intergovernmental agreement on nuclear energy that should be ready to be signed by the end of April or the beginning of May. Third, I think it is very important that the Russian Federation is eminently interested in participating in the construction at Mochovce [nuclear plant in southern Slovakia]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Government Recalls Meciar-Appointed Officials

AU0804202994

[Editorial Report] Bratislava SME in Slovak on 6 April on pages 1 and 2, under the headline "The Appointment of Commissioners Had No Backing in Law," carries an 800-word interview with Interior Minister Ladislav Pittner by Boris Koren. In the interview, the place and date of which are not given, Pittner justifies the government's decision to recall "eight government commissioners" appointed by the former government of Vladimir Meciar, whose task was to "prepare" Slovakia's new territorial and administrative arrangement. Pittner explains the decision by the agreement reached by the present coalition that "territorial and administrative division, horizontal integration, and transfer of powers from the state administration to self-administrative bodies are problems of such importance that they should be tackled only by the government that will emerge from the early elections." He also argues that the appointment of the eight commissioners "had no backing in law" and that it "anticipated a certain form of administrative

arrangement and administrative and territorial division." As he notes, the appointment of eight such commissioners "came suspiciously close to one of the government proposals," under which Slovakia was to be subdivided into seven or eight territorial and administrative units.

HZDS: Western Capital Behind Fall of Meciar

AU0804192994 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 7 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by "jc": "Meciar Was Speaking in the Park of Culture and Repose; Another Movement for a Democratic Slovakia Preelection Rally"]

[Excerpts] Bratislava—The overcrowded Theater Hall of the Park of Culture and Repose was the scene of the second preelection rally of Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] (and Slovak National Party) supporters last night. It was addressed by most members of the "shadow cabinet," with Vladimir Meciar at the head. [passage omitted]

Responding to the criticism of the so-called wild privatization in the last weeks and days of his government, Vladimir Meciar declared that, in this way, the government wanted to prevent the sellout of state property abroad and make it possible for the employees of the privatized companies to become their co-owners. [Former Minister of Culture] Dusan Slobodnik told the rally in this context that the fall of Meciar's government has been contributed to also by a certain sector of foreign capital, which supposedly needed a more pliant Slovak Government. The HZDS chairman spoke, furthermore, about various pressures to sell the Slovak gas industry. A certain Western financial group has supposedly offered our high-ranking officials a commission of 1.6 billion korunas for being helpful in this transaction. The HZDS Club of Deputies intends to disclose the details at a meeting of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, where it also plans to expose other facts about the interest of some members of the present government in the privatization of specific companies, about attempts to restore Czechoslovakia, about the unlawful activities of the Presidential Office, and the like. The main speaker also criticized the provisional government's excessively accommodating attitude toward, in particular, the Czech Republic and Hungary, whereby it supposedly goes beyond the limits of Slovakia's state interests. [passage omitted]

Walesa Receives Deputy Secretary Talbott

LD1104094694 Warsaw PAP in Polish 0757 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Warsaw, 11 Apr (PAP)—A period of confrontation in Europe has not been followed by major changes. There is a chance for a peaceful solution of problems, but swift actions and brave decisions are needed. The United States has the greatest responsibility for the future, President Lech Walesa said today, when greeting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott at the Belweder Palace.

According to the president, a chance exists for building unity in Europe, and, "acting together with the United States, we might achieve splendid victories." "It is the United States that is the most important in the battleground at present," Lech Walesa said. Poland is concerned with the remnants of communism and the Warsaw Pact, although, according to the president, there are no major threats.

Lech Walesa underscored that West Europe maintains its position and NATO is not expanding. "We have been struggling for 50 years with millions of victims and great financial costs," he said. Poland has devoted the past four years to the search. No great structural changes have been made, and life cannot stand a vacuum, Lech Walesa argued.

Prime Minister, Talbott Talk

LD1104105094 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1000 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Warsaw, 11 Apr—A meeting between Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott lasted nearly one and a half hours. Talbott is paying a two-day official visit to Poland.

After the meeting, Pawlak told journalists that talks focused, among other things, on Polish-U.S. cooperation in international financial and economic organizations such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the OECD. Views were also exchanged on the "Partnership for Peace" [PFP] program. Pawlak announced that Polish-U.S. talks at the experts' level would be held soon. They should lead to joint undertakings this year within the framework of Poland's cooperation with NATO.

According to Pawlak, development of the whole Central-Eastern region of Europe was also discussed, as well as the possibility of U.S. support for the process.

Talbott said that the United States was of the opinion that Polish reforms were yielding good results. He stressed that the United States was the largest investor in Poland and that economic relations between both states might still be expanded. Talbott pointed out that economic issues would probably be the main subject of talks by President Bill Clinton during his visit to Poland in July.

Pawlak, Klaus Hold Cooperation Talks

LD1004133394 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1144 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Jelenia Gora, 10 Apr—The prime ministers of Poland and the Czech Republic, Waldemar Pawlak and Vaclav Klaus, met today at Czocha Castle, near Lesna in the Jelenia Gora Voivodship to discuss cooperation between the two countries.

Ewa Wachowicz, press assistant to Prime Minister Pawlak, told a PAP journalist that this is a continuation of the talks commenced in Prague during the course of the visit there by U.S. President Bill Clinton. [passage omitted]

News Conference Reported

LD1004181494 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The prime ministers of Poland and the Czech Republic have met in Czocha Castle in the Jelenia Gora province near the frontier.

At a news conference following their informal meeting, Waldemar Pawlak and Vaclav Klaus described their talks as very concrete. They concerned, above all, economic cooperation, but not exclusively, because they also talked about European integration and the Polish minority in the Czech Republic.

It is not true that Polish-Czech relations are not good, declared Vaclav Klaus, and added that there was no other country whose politicians he was meeting as often. He recalled his talks with Waldemar Pawlak at the Visegrad-U.S. summit, with Aleksandr Kwasniewski in Davos, Sejm Speaker Jozef Oleksy's visit to Prague, and announced a meeting with President Lech Walesa next week.

Prime Ministers Pawlak and Klaus agreed, among other things, that the Polish debts would also be paid off through ecological investment projects. We would be most willing to provide coal, but the Czechs also have problems in this branch of the industry, and that is why the agreement finally was for ecology and a border infrastructure.

For Waldemar Pawlak, the most important matters in relations with the Czechs are agreements concerning the Central European Free Trade zone and border cooperation.

Vaclav Klaus appealed to Polish journalists not to put a political slant on the matter of reduced subsidies for Polish organizations active in the Czech Republic. The prime minister explained that his government had given up lump-sum subsidies in favor of supporting specific undertakings. Vaclav Klaus announced a financial shot in the arm for Polish minority organizations in the second half of the year.

Further on Talks

LD1004194194 Warsaw TV Polonia Network in Polish 1730 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] [Correspondent] The prime ministers of Poland and the Czech Republic, Waldemar Pawlak and Vaclav

Klaus, have had a meeting in the Czocha castle, near Lesna, Jelenia Gora province. They discussed, among other things, our efforts to join the European Union and Polish-Czech economic relations. The venue and the date of the meeting were agreed upon by the heads of both governments in Prague in January at the Visegrad Group summit in which President Bill Clinton took part. Pawlak and Klaus decided then that they would hold meetings at least once a year.

[Begin Pawlak recording] The number of direct meetings between representatives of the Polish and the Czech side manifests clearly that we attach great significance to our mutual relations. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The talks concerned, among other things, efforts that are being made by both states to enter the European Union. Poland has already submitted its application for membership in the union. The Czech Republic has so far refrained from making this decision.

[Begin Klaus recording, in Czech with superimposed Polish translation] I wish Poland to be ready as soon as possible to become a full member of the European Union. We have no intention of competing with you in this respect. The Czech Republic has also been doing everything to enter the union. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The prime ministers have also talked about large investment projects for the power and fuel industries. The Czech Republic is interested in using Polish ports and pipelines leading through our country. The prime ministers also discussed the situation of the Polish minority in the Czech Republic and the Czech minority in Poland.

Pawlak Meets Slovak Foreign Minister Kukan

LD0904121294 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1005 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] In Warsaw, Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak held a half-hour meeting with Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan, who is on a working visit to our country.

[Correspondent K. Koziol] This is the first Polish-Slovak contact at government level following the changes in the Slovak Government. It is also the first trip of the new foreign minister of Slovakia.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak told journalists that he had discussed with the head of Slovak diplomacy all matters linked to our cooperation, mainly the agreements that have been prepared and are ready to be signed.

These are, said the prime minister, agreements regarding economic cooperation, the safeguarding and support of investments, and an agreement on double taxation.

The foreign minister of the Slovak Republic conveyed to Prime Minister Pawlak an invitation from Slovak Prime Minister Moravcik to pay a visit to Slovakia. I am certain, said Kukan, that my visit to Warsaw will speed up the legal regulation upon which our relations are based.

From the Council of Ministers Office, Kukan made his way to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a face-to-face meeting with Minister Andrzej Olechowski.

At the same time, the two delegations are holding plenary talks. This is Krystyna Koziol for the First Program.

European Integration Discussed

LD0904195794 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1730 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Relayed by Warsaw TV Polonia Network]

[Text] Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan has said that Poland's and Hungary's application for membership in the European Union will also facilitate Slovakia's integration with West Europe. The Slovak minister's talks in Warsaw focused primarily on economic cooperation. This is the first foreign visit by the Slovak foreign minister after the recent change of government in Bratislava.

After talks with Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski, the Slovak foreign minister said that Bratislava would submit a formal application for membership in the European Union next year.

[Begin Kukan recording, in Slovak with superimposed Polish translation] The division of Czechoslovakia has delayed negotiations on our membership in the European Union. Last year, we had to negotiate from the beginning and sign an association agreement. Now the 12 countries should ratify it. Denmark and Great Britain have done it so far. We would like the other union members to ratify the agreement by the end of the year. [end recording]

The Slovak minister arrived in Warsaw with an invitation for Waldemar Pawlak to pay a visit to Bratislava. Most probably the visit will take place before the summer holidays. Economic agreements, including an agreement on investment protection and one on avoiding double taxation, are to be signed during the visit.

[Begin Olechowski recording] The talks went smoothly and easily and we now have a great many plans for the future. I am not sure—we may have too many plans, and we will probably not be able to implement them all. [end recording]

Our trade turnover last year amounted to only $300 million. Poland is eighth on the list of Slovakia's economic partners. The situation could be improved by the abolition of customs duties, as part of the Central European Free Trade Association, and by constructing more border-crossing points. Although Poland's joint border with Slovakia is the longest—700 kilometers—only eight border-crossing points are in operation. The construction of a further 11 points is planned.

Formal EU Application 'Positively' Received

WS1104132394 Warsaw NOWA EUROPA in Polish 11 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by E.W.: "Six Years for Adaptation of Standards; Poland Submitted Application for EU Membership"]

[Text] *The official application for Poland's membership in the European Union [EU], which was submitted in Athens on Friday [8 April], was accepted positively by EU Council Chairman Theodoros Pangalos. This is what Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski told journalists upon his return from Greece. According to Olechowski, the year 2000 is a possible date for our country's acceptance into EU.*

"The Government of the Polish Republic hereby has the honor of submitting an application for the Polish Republic's membership in the EU, based on Article 0 [as published] of the EU Treaty, and also to inform that Poland is ready to begin negotiations at an appropriate time, concerning its joining EU." Such is the wording of the document signed by [Prime Minister] Waldemar Pawlak. The application was submitted in the presence of Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, the government's plenipotentiary for European Integration, and Jan Borkowski, chairman of the Sejm Commission for the European Treaty. "Either a big storm and a big legacy will come out of this little application or nothing will come out," said the chief diplomat.

The Polish application will be debated along with Hungary's at the next session of the EU Council of Ministers on 18 April, after which it will be submitted to the European Commission, which will render its opinion. According to A. Olechowski, the process of rendering an opinion on the document may take as long as three years. This means that formal negotiations concerning membership will begin in about the year 2000, while the process of adapting Polish realities to meet EU legal and economic requirements will take between five and 10 years.

"Russia should be a member of the G-7 group and should have its own strategic agreement with NATO, but it should not be linked to the 'Partnership for Peace' program." This is how Olechowski commented on a statement made Friday by Vyacheslav Kostikov, Boris Yeltsin's press secretary, when Kostikov stated that Russia would like to combine its joining the "Partnership" program with its joining the group of the seven most industrialized countries of the world.

Rosati on Decision To Withdraw as Candidate

LD1004192894

[Editorial Report] Warsaw TV Polonia Network in Polish at 1650 GMT on 10 April carries on its 30-minute "100 Questions to..." program a report about Professor Dariusz Rosati, the government coalition candidate for the posts of finance minister and deputy prime minister. The program, presented by Ewa Michalska, opened with a video report showing people in the streets being asked whether they know who Rosati is. Many do. The video is followed by a profile on Rosati.

Afterwards Rosati answers journalists' questions concerning his decision to withdraw as the candidate for the above-mentioned posts. The first question is whether Rosati has definitely made up his mind. Rosati replies: "Today the situation is clear. I am not a candidate for the post of finance minister because of well-known circumstances."

Rosati says he could not accept the post in a situation when President Walesa was opposed to his appointment. Rosati now intends to return to Geneva and resume his work for the UN European Economic Commission. However, he does not completely rule out the possibility that he may accept the job of finance minister in the future. He says he does regret having gotten involved in the controversy concerning his appointment. Rosati explains that he never met President Walesa and did not have a chance to discuss his proposals with him.

During the course of the discussion, the issue of Rosati's work for the foreign-debt-servicing fund, FOZZ, is mentioned. He says the FOZZ supervisory board, of which he is a member, does not have much influence on the day-to-day running of the fund, so he cannot be personally responsible for the FOZZ shortcomings.

When asked to name his own possible recommendations for the job of finance minister, he avoids mentioning any names. Another question concerns the nature of his work in Geneva. Rosati says that it was a research and analysis job.

Rosati also comments on a number of economic issues. He says he is against state control over wages. He also thinks President Walesa should not delay the signing of the budget.

One of the journalists asks him about the state of Rosati's financial affairs. He does not hesitate to disclose that he owns a house in Warsaw and two cars, and that he has $30,000 to $40,000 in his bank account.

Rosati is asked about his possible priorities had he been appointed finance minister. He says the most important things are a proper medium-term economic policy, speeding up the privatization process, restructuring the economy, and getting rid of inflationary pressures.

At the end of the program, Rosati is traditionally invited to leave his signature on the program board, among many other signatures left there previously by well-known personalities.

Situation After Rejection of Popiwek Law

WS1104133994 Warsaw TRYBUNA in Polish 11 Apr 94 p 1

[Commentary by Stanislaw Cwik under the rubric "One Hundred Words"]

[Text] The Sejm and the president have prepared an unexpected experiment for the Polish economy. They

decided that decisions concerning wages would be made by company directors, employees' councils, and trade unions. Thus, we partially returned to socialism. The prime minister must again appeal to work forces and to the responsibility of managers.

I believe that there are two solutions to this problem: first, returning to a new popiwek [tax on excessive wage increases] as soon as possible, and second, changing the system of most state-run enterprises, establishing a one-person Treasury partnership, and privatization.

The first method has proved itself. However, the fear of a new popiwek law may result in wage panic today, not to mention high inflation. The other method calls for some time. It may also encounter political resistance because not everyone in Poland supports privatization and modernization of oversized economic companies.

Each of these scenarios is to a certain extent risky. It seems, however, that safer is the "escape forward"—that is, acceleration of the pace of economic reforms. This calls for specific decisions already today. Also, the work forces of state-owned companies should be told what they will go through soon—for example, that there will be no popiwek, but there will be bankruptcies. Or that not only the rights of various sectors of our economy will be equalized, but also their duties toward the Treasury.

Poll: Kwasniewski Best Presidential Candidate

WS0804144694 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 8 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by R.W.: "According to CBOS Respondents: Kwasniewski for President"]

[Text] A year and a half before presidential elections, Aleksander Kwasniewski [chairman of the Social Democracy of the Polish Republic] is the best candidate for next president of Poland. The Public Opinion Research Center [CBOS] conducted a survey at the end of March using a list of politicians, and Kwasniewski gained the highest support (17 percent). His "presidential popularity" has not changed since January. But there are clearly far fewer people (compared with the beginning of the year) who would be willing to support Lech Walesa or Krzysztof Skubiszewski in the race for the Belweder (or, as the case may be, to Namiestnikowski Palace). Apart from Kwasniewski, only [Prime Minister] Waldemar Pawlak managed to gain the "votes" of at least one in 10 prospective voters, during the March poll. Support for Zbigniew Religa, chief of the Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms, increased slightly since January; Religa now occupies third place on the list of presidential candidates. Respondents' views continue to be very diversified. Therefore, no one from among the personalities named by CBOS can regard himself as a definite favorite on the basis of the poll only. It is worth stressing that just 2 percent of respondents say Jacek Kuron, who leads in popularity polls, would make a good future president. No politician of the center right enjoys significant support. Respondents do not have anyone "in reserve," either. Just 7 percent of respondents said they would vote for somebody who is not on the CBOS list. The CBOS poll was conducted on 25-28 March (1,230-person representative random sample of the country's adult population) and 27-31 January (1,172-person sample).

Fighting, Situation Around Gorazde Reported

Serbs Seize 'Strategic Height'

AU0904131194 Paris AFP in English 1211 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, April 9 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb forces, pressing a 10-day offensive, have seized a strategic height overlooking the Moslem enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia, a UN spokesman said here Saturday.

But Major Rob Annink of the UN Protection Force in former Yugoslavia told reporters that "we don't think that Gorazde is under imminent threat of being taken by the Bosnian Serb army" following Friday's seizure of the highest flank of Mount Gradina.

He said he based his conviction on the fact that "the (mainly Moslem) Bosnian army is still strong and that the Serb army does not want to take the town." [passage omitted]

Despite the breaking of a 24-hour truce declared on Thursday [7 April], UNPROFOR spokesman Annink said General Rose was "quite optimistic" he could obtain a ceasefire between the warring sides on Saturday. [passage omitted]

Annink pointed out here that the Serbs could have bombarded the city from the positions they had captured in recent days but had chosen not to do so.

After taking Mount Gradina, the Serbs now hold 7.5 percent of the original Moslem pocket. This includes most of the right bank of the river Drina which the Serbs want to control along all its course and which follows the route between Zvornik-Gorazde-Gacko-Trebinje in south-eastern Bosnia.

UNPROFOR believes the Serbs are also trying to force the Bosnian government to sign a ceasefire just as it is notching up important military successes against Serb forces in northern Bosnia.

Bosnian government troops have widened the Maglaj enclave it controls and threaten the Serb-held town of Doboj. Further north they are exerting pressure the corridor that links Serb-held territory in Bosnia and Croatia with Serbia proper.

In the northwestern Bosnian town of Prijedor, the Bosnian Serbs said on Saturday they had arrested several people suspected of murdering some 20 Moslems at the end of March.

Drago Vukovic, interior ministry spokesman for the self-proclaimed Serb Republic of Bosnia told AFP that those thought responsible for the killings were behind bars and that their names would be published soon.

The killings spread terror among the 6,000 Moslems living in the region and forced the United Nations into negotiating their evacuation.

Butrus-Ghali Threatens Air Strikes

AU0904134294 Paris AFP in English 1336 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Geneva, April 9 (AFP)—UN chief Butrus Butrus-Ghali Saturday ordered UN forces in Bosnia to use "all available means" to obtain the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb troops threatening the Moslem enclave of Gorazde.

Butrus-Ghali said in a statement released by his spokeswoman Therese Gastaut that the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] in former Yugoslavia must "use all available means as authorized by the relevant Security Council resolutions to attain this objective."

Gastaut said the resolutions included the possible recourse to NATO air strikes because Gorazde was a protected UN "safe haven".

The statement was issued as the Bosnian Serbs seized strategic high ground overlooking Gorazde as part of a 10-day offensive on the Moslem pocket in eastern Bosnia.

In his statement, Butrus-Ghali welcomed "the positive momentum and progress towards peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

"With regard to the safe area of Gorazde, the Secretary-General has taken note of the improvement in the situation there which was reported to him this (Saturday) morning.

"At the same time, he calls for a return by the parties, especially the Bosnian Serbs, to the positions they held before the outbreak of the recent fighting."

The statement was issued after the UN chief held meetings in Geneva earlier on Saturday with his special representative to former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, as well as UN mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg, Sarajevo special coordinator William Eagleton and UNPROFOR chief General Bertrand de Sauville de Lapresle.

Cease-Fire Talks Break Down

AU0904153894 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, April 9 (AFP)—Ceasefire talks between Bosnian and Bosnian Serb military leaders at Sarajevo airport broke down Saturday afternoon minutes after getting under way, the UN said.

Bosnian general Rasim Delic and Bosnian Serb general Ratko Mladic will now have a 48-hour cooling off period during which they will both hold consultations with political authorities, said United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) commander in Bosnia, General Michael Rose.

The meeting was called to reach an agreement on a ceasefire for the eastern Bosnian Moslem enclave of Gorazde, where the Serbs launched a major offensive two weeks ago, and on ways of securing a global solution to the Bosnia crisis.

But Delic insisted on a "short-term arrangement" for Gorazde while the Bosnian Serbs were seeking an overall ceasefire, UNPROFOR spokesman Captain Eric Chaperon said. [passage omitted]

Despite the breakdown, the UNPROFOR spokesman said Rose remained confident an agreement would eventually be signed. [passage omitted]

Ganic: Many Killed in 'Gas Attack'

AU1004124494 Paris AFP in English 0100 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, April 10 (AFP)—The Moslem-led Bosnian presidency Saturday [9 April] evening accused Serbs of killing "many people" in a gas attack on the eastern Moslem-held enclave of Gorazde.

A spokesman for the presidency here was unable to give casualty figures, saying reports varied widely with some mentioning thousands of dead.

In Istanbul, Bosnian Vice-President Eyup Ganic told AFP that "hundreds" of people had been killed during the course of three chemical attacks on Gorazde on Saturday. "This is genocide under UN supervision," he said.

Ganic added that he would be flying to New York on Sunday, at the demand of President Alija Izetbegovic, to demand an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

UNPROFOR Denies Chemicals Used

LD1004144394 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1407 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, April 10 (TANJUG)—A representative of the U.N. Protection Force for former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) on Sunday denied claims by the Moslem leadership in Sarajevo that Serb forces had used poison gases and killed thousands of civilians in an attack on Gorazde, a Moslem enclave in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Spokesman Rob Annink told reporters in Sarajevo that Serb forces had possibly only used smoke mortars in the region of Gorazde, the French news agency AFP said.

The Moslem presidency in Sarajevo said on Saturday evening that thousands of people had been killed in the Serb attack on Gorazde when poison gases were used. The statement was immediately carried by leading news agencies from all over the world.

Moslem Radio Sarajevo even said that the Gorazde suburbs of Bace and Mlinarice were pounded with chemical shells, with 1,000-10,000 casualties as a result.

Moslem Presidency Vice-President Ejup Ganic said that he would leave for New York already on Sunday to ask for an emergency session of the Security Council because of this incident.

Deputy commander of the general staff of the Bosnian Serb army, General Milan Gvero on Sunday told TANJUG that the Serb side had never used chemical weapons in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Serb side does not manufacture, possess or use such weapons, he was adamant.

Gen. Gvero said that the Moslem side was using poison gases in order to accuse the Serbs and provoke a military intervention against them.

Gorazde Being 'Destroyed'

LD1004111294 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Report by Fahrudin Becic from Gorazde]

[Text] Gorazde increasingly resembles a mass grave. Over 100 dead and about 500 wounded are the consequence of the frenzied attacks by Karadzic's followers. Nothing is known about the fate of many people from the right bank of the Drina River. Many are believed to have been massacred and left among the charred remains of villages in the southern section of the battlefield. The battle hospital is caring for the wounded with superhuman efforts. There are no medicines, no surgical equipment, no power. There is also no hope that Gorazde's hellish experience is nearing an end. On the contrary, the attacks are increasing.

Deadly tank shells are raining down from Ustipraca on both banks of the Drina. Infantry attacks against the defense lines of Kopaci are supported with fire from howitzers and all other artillery weapons. Chetniks are also attacking the defence lines of Gotunjak, [place name indistinct] Hill and Gradina. They are also launching attacks on the northern side of Gorazde from the direction of Metvici, toward the villages of Vrazalice and Tvitjak, and the Trovrh peak.

The situation, however, is most critical at the approaches to the town, on the right bank of the Drina. Serbian and Montenegrin volunteers are systematically firing at civilian facilities. The town is being systematically destroyed with all available weapons since 0900—street by street, house by house. Many houses have been destroyed, many are in flames. It is futile to expect anything to change here without an urgent intervention by the international community.

Serb Forces 'Liberate' Villages

LD1004111894 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1001 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Cajnice, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—The command of the Herzegovina Corps today announced that Serb fighters liberated the villages of Cindici and Zupcici, south of Gorazde, in yesterday's actions. By liberating these two villages conditions have been created for units of the Herzegovina Corps to take control of these important Muslim strongholds in the area around Uhotic Hill and Bukovo plain, the last remaining Muslim strongholds on the right bank of the Drina, upstream from Gorazde.

In order to prevent the withdrawal of members of the 31st Brigade of the so-called army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who suffered a major military defeat in the Cindici area, their command ordered that the bridge in this village be destroyed.

The command of the Herzegovina Corps claims that Serb army units engaged in a counteroffensive from the Visegrad direction are deployed just outside Kopaci, six km downstream from Gorazde.

Serb military sources say that the Muslim army is still concentrating its forces in the area around Gradina, Volujaca and Uhotic Hill and that its members—according to an imprisoned Muslim soldier—have been threatened with death if they lose these strategic points.

Muslim Army Stronghold Captured

LD1004131594 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1147 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Cajnice, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—Serb fighters this morning liberated Uhotici Brdo, one of the last Muslim army strongholds south of Gorazde, the command of the Herzegovina Corps reported.

Units of the Serb Republic Army are reported to be in control of the right bank of the Drina from Vitkovici to Dzindici at a distance of about 700 meters from the river.

NATO planes are breaking the sound barrier while flying at low level above the area between Gorazde, Foca and Cajnice—the scene of heavy fighting over the past 13 days.

The command of the Hercegovina Corps, denying Muslim media reports, said today that Serb fighters have not engaged in any military actions in the center of Gorazde.

Drina Bridge Destroyed

AU1004125594 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, April 10 (AFP)—Bosnian Serbs kept up heavy shelling of the beseiged Moslem enclave of Gorazde on Sunday after the breakdown of ceasefire talks, as a row developed over the use of chemical weapons there.

In Belgrade on Sunday, the agency SNRA said Bosnian Serb forces had seized two villages south of Gorazde and their commander was declaring himself ready to allow an evacuation of civilians from the Moslem enclave. [passage omitted]

UNPROFOR spokesman Rob Annink confirmed Sunday that Serb shelling had destroyed a strategic bridge over the river Drina at Sadba, in the south of Gorazde. This would help any possible Serb capture of the south-east part of the enclave still held by the mainly Moslem Bosnian army, he said.

Serb guns also targetted a bridge in the Gorazde suburb of Bacci which had been hit by Serb artillery fire, along with three other heavily populated suburbs, Annink said. [passage omitted]

A shell fell 1,000 metres (yards) from the headquarters of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the centre of Gorazde Saturday, UNHCR spokesman Kris Janovski said in Sarajevo.

Local people protested in front of its offices Saturday, handing in a petition which demanded "more energetic action" to defend Gorazde by the international community, he said.

In Zagreb, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees told AFP that more than 1,500 people fled in panic from intense Serb shelling in the southern area of the enclave Saturday night, streaming into Gorazde.

"There is real panic south of Gorazde and in the town itself," spokesman Peter Kessler said, adding that shelling had intensified Sunday morning.

Annink poured cold water on accusations by Bosnian leaders that the enclave had been hit by chemical gas. "We think it was smoke grenades, probably M84s for 120mm mortar guns," he said.

The Bosnian presidency accused Serbs Saturday evening of killing "many people" in a gas attack.

Bosnian Serb military leaders denied the charges, accusing the Bosnian army of using tear gas in the Bokovo region earlier this month. [passage omitted]

Serb troops seized two villages in the south of the Gorazde enclave, according to a report by the agency SRNA. The troops took Djindici and Zupcici, which the agency described as "Moslem strongholds." Serb forces now hoped to repulse the mainly Moslem Bosnian government forces from heights around the Oglecevo region in the south of the enclave, it said.

The Serb commander said he was ready to allow the evacuation of civilians wishing to leave the enclave as far as the village of Osjecani, where they would be handed over to United Nations troops, the agency said.

The agency SRNA said fighting between the two sides was continuing Sunday along front lines on the Drina river, on which both the captured villages are situated. Bosnian Serb forces also routed Moslem troops in the north of the enclave at Kopac, SRNA said. [passage omitted]

Izetbegovic News Conference

LD1004170094 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 94

[News conference given by Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic, Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, and Bosnian Army Commander Rasim Delic with unidentified reporters and an unidentified moderator in the Presidency building in Sarajevo—live]

[Text] [Izetbegovic] The situation in Gorazde, in the area around Gorazde, is deteriorating further. Here are some facts: 19 villages have been burned down so far [words indistinct]. There are many dead and wounded. The exact figure cannot be established. We have tried to

establish an approximate figure regarding the shelling and the victims, especially those of last night's chemical attack. It has not been possible to do so until now. We can only say that the number of victims is very large.

I would like to draw your attention to one thing: Gorazde is in this situation first of all because of the general situation caused by the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are now facing the situation in which the entire Podrinje area, where Muslims constituted a majority, has been reduced to three enclaves. Gorazde is just one of them. The international community's arms embargo has deprived us of the capacity to defend ourselves. Let's take a look at the specific actions of UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR]. With its reports over the past 10 days in which it persistently repeated that nothing spectacular was happening there, the UNPROFOR has in a way lulled the international public and given false information to those people who are expected to decide what should happen next. It practically deceived [word indistinct].

When I mention the specific situation in Gorazde I am referring to a peculiar mode of behavior by UNPROFOR, who have—in the last 10 days or so, since the attack began—been concealing the facts and giving incomplete information to the public and [words indistinct].

You must have noticed total discrepancy between what we have said about the situation in Gorazde, between our warnings that the Serbs were launching all-out, well-prepared attacks for which weaponry—a large number of tanks—and a large number of people were being made available, and UNPROFOR's reports—and we will see who is responsible for this—to the world public saying that nothing special was happening there, that it was only a case of sporadic shelling, there were no new movements of troops, and no large numbers of casualties.

Of course, the right decisions could not be made in the centers of decision-making on the basis of such incorrect reports.

And, before I conclude, let me just say that General Rose reiterated yesterday that there were no new movements by the chetnik units, and this at the time when they were in fact advancing toward the Drina.

Let me just add that last night we sent an (?alarming) letter to the Security Council, demanding (?adequate measures).

[Moderator] Before this news conference Prime Minister Silajdzic was in contact with some people from Gorazde. I would like him to tell us about the situation there at the moment.

[Silajdzic] The radio contacts we had and this telegram which we received 20 minutes ago say more or less the same thing.

The situation in Gorazde is extremely dramatic, according to the telegram. The shelling of the town center has been the heaviest since the beginning of the war. Between 15,000 and 20,000 people have had to leave their homes. This is what the telegram says.

I would like to add another point to what President Izetbegovic has already said. I think that we have been told by General Rose that he would call for air strikes if the aggressor's forces were to advance toward the town. That is all.

[Moderator] Since we have heard reports of chemical weapons being used in the attacks, I would like to ask General Delic to tell us what he knows about this.

[Delic] Chemical weapons have been used several times during the aggressor's offensive on Gorazde. I am speaking of the use of chemical gases fired from artillery weapons. These are mainly gases which cause short-term effects, gases such as irritants. The valley of the Drina has just the right terrain for the use of chemical gases.

I would like to remind you that international conventions ban the use of chemical gases. Chemical gases have been used indiscriminately, both against the units of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and against populated areas, in particular the village of Vitkovici. Yesterday alone 45 projectiles containing chemical gases were used. We have heard reports that they were used this morning as well.

According to some unconfirmed reports chemical gases which cause long-term effects have also been used, such as blister-causing gases. We do not know the number of casualties, either among the civilians or among the soldiers, since this number is large [as received]. All indications are that the aggressor has used all prohibited means at his disposal in order to destroy people in the area.

[Journalist] [passage indistinct]

[Izetbegovic] As you could hear from Silajdzic's statement, General Rose promised this yesterday. He said that if the Serbs continued advancing, he would use force to stop them. As you know, he has not done it yet.

[Journalist] I would like to ask President Izetbegovic why UNPROFOR is deliberately playing down the attacks on the protected zone of Gorazde. My second question is what the state of Bosnia- Herzegovina is doing internally and on the international scene to stop the Serb aggressor's attacks on Gorazde. My third question is for the prime minister. You said that the aggressor is again using the tactics of negotiating and attacking at the same time. What is the aggressor's aim now?

[Izetbegovic] Let me answer the first question (words indistinct]. I cannot say what UNPROFOR's aim in doing that is,. whether it is the worst option, to hand over Gorazde, or whether they are simply shirking from their duty. I believe that this is an attempt to avoid the use of force regardless of the price our people will pay. I would like to stress now that UNPROFOR had the mandate to use force, that is, to ask for (?air strikes). There is a clear provision in the resolution [words indistinct]. I would like you to ask General Rose the same thing as soon as you see him.

As for your second question, I can tell you that the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina has done everything in its powers to help Gorazde, including the army, of course.

You know what we have done in the political field. Last night we sent an urgent letter to the Security Council. That was one of our latest actions. In the military field, we have taken resolute measures to ease the situation on the Gorazde front. After seven days of walking through snow and (?blizzard) the first group of people, doctors and people carrying aid for Gorazde arrived there last night. We are also taking military measures, but I cannot disclose the details here. [passage indistinct]

[Siljadzic] The aggressor aims to force the international community and us into having this situation, as it is, frozen for some period of time. This also includes taking the right bank of the Drina in order to secure a better negotiating position. At the same time the aggressor is testing the international community's resolve [passage indistinct]. In other words, instead of one massive attack lasting for several days which could possibly provoke a reaction on the part of the international community, the aggressor has decided to negotiate and attack at the same time so as to lull the international community into believing that peace will be achieved through negotiations.

I have to say that at the very beginning we cautioned General Rose about this tactics and we hope [passage indistinct].

[Journalist] [passage indistinct]

[Delic] At this moment it is difficult to say, it is difficult to collect reports—from the inferno which Gorazde is experiencing—in order to analyze what chemical weapons were used. I stressed that [words indistinct] in one round of fire yesterday 45 shells filled with chemical agents were fired from artillery weapons. [passage indistinct]

Speaking about Serb paramilitary formations, the basic problem is that they can at any time bring in reinforcements. So if I say that 3,000 to 4,000 people are fighting, you can take as [word indistinct]. This is only an example. However, the problem is that they can replace and bring in fresh forces. That is how they manage to have fresh forces all the time. They can also bring in new equipment. On the other hand, the defenders cannot do that. The same people have held defense positions for 15 days. That is a difference in quality, rather than the number of people fighting on the opposing sides. [passage indistinct]

[Izetbegovic] In conclusion I would like to stress what Delic has just said. We believe that the international community—with the Security Council as its head—has the obligation to take immediate measures to save the town. It should have done that before. Tomorrow it could be too late.

I would like to stress one thing because we are often asked this: We base this obligation on the fact that they have deprived us of arms for self-defense. By imposing the arms embargo, you practically tied our hands when we were attacked. This is why they have no right to use any kind of pretext not to protect Gorazde now, and Srebrenica in the future and so on. If we had had weapons, we would not ask them to help us.

Serb Troops Crossing Drina River

AU1004135394 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Zagreb, April 10 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb troops on Sunday began crossing the Drina river just south of the besieged Moslem town of Gorazde following a massive artillery offensive, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees announced.

The soldiers began crossing the river shortly after 3:00 p.m. (1300 GMT), the UNHCR spokesman in Zagreb, Peter Kessler said.

The river had marked the front line between the warring forces.

Villages in Flames

AU1004141494 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Zagreb, April 10 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb troops besieging the Moslem town of Gorazde on Sunday began crossing the Drina river just to the south following a massive artillery offensive, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees announced.

The soldiers began crossing the river, which had marked the front line between warring forces, shortly after 3:00 p.m. (1300 GMT), the UNHCR spokesman in Zagreb, Peter Kessler said.

Half an hour later, shells continued to "pour down" on the villages of Bacci and Vinarici to the south of Gorazde, while three other villages to the east were in flames, he added.

General Michael Rose, commander of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia, called off a flight to Brussels from the Croatian port of Split and returned rapidly to the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, UNPROFOR officials here said.

Rose's spokesman here was unable to say whether the sudden change in his plans was due to developments in Gorazde. [passage omitted]

Serbs Attack Gorazde Center

AU1004153094 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Zagreb, April 10 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb troops besieging Gorazde took control of a hill directly above the Moslem-held town Sunday and were shooting into its centre, UN officials said as thousands of refugees fled before the Serb advance.

Serb forces gained the strategic hill on the right bank of the river Drina which runs through the beseiged enclave, UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Peter Kessler announced just after 4:00 pm (1400 GMT).

Some 15,000 refugees were fleeing the Moslem east of Gorazde in panic and the area, including the hospital, could be "under threat very quickly," UNHCR spokeswoman Lyndall Sachs said in Belgrade.

"The whole eastern part of the town has taken flight (...) towards the west of the town," she said.

People working for the UNHCR in the town "can see the fighting easily from their office, with bullets flying in their direction," she added. [passage omitted]

Serb Tanks Roll Into Town

AU1004164894 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Sarajevo, April 10 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb forces took control Sunday of the riverbank where the Moslem town of Gorazde is located, and Serb tanks rolled into the southern part of town, the United Nations said.

UN spokesman Dacre Halloway said the Serb forces took over the bank after crossing the Drina river, which had been the frontline between the two warring parties. He said there was sniper fire outside the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Serb forces have been attacking the Gorazde enclave for the past two weeks.

Serbs Deny Entering Gorazde

LD1004172894 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1716 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Cajnice, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—Units of the [Bosnian] Serb army have not entered Gorazde, and they are not firing on the town, the command of the Herzegovina Corps announced this evening, denying the news broadcast by Muslim media and quoted by some world news agencies.

Officials in the Herzegovina Corps command claim that the reports that the Serb army is using poison gases are also untrue. The same command says that the truth is that Muslims have recently used poison gases—made in the fertilizer factory in Vitkovici—in the battles south of Gorazde.

Explosives Planted in Factory

LD1004173394 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Is Gorazde going to be another Bhopal? After 13 days of fighting [words indistinct] the defenders from the area of Vitkovici decided to plant explosives in a nitrogen factory. We have just learned from Mirsad Dragolj that explosives were planted in two tanks containing 25 metric tons of ammonia each and a tank with 20 tons of formalin.

If these tanks explode, the consequences would certainly be vast, not only for the area of Vitkovici and Gorazde, but also for the whole of the northern part of the Drina valley. Mr. Dragolj said this was not an act of desperation, but a move caused by futile actions of the representatives of the peacekeeping forces. It is a consequence of the lies about the latest offensive by some key people in the world organization and also of the reactions by our state and military organs, which came too late. [passage omitted]

NATO Warplanes Strike Serb Positions

AU1004174894 Paris AFP in English 1748 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Brussels, April 10 (AFP)—NATO warplanes Sunday carried out airstrikes over the Serb-besieged Moslem town of Gorazde in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a NATO spokesman said here.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation carried out the attacks at the request of UN forces, the spokesman said.

Serb forces were Sunday pressing home an attack on Gorazde after a massive artillery barrage following a two-week siege.

The ongoing attacks against Serb positions by two NATO F-16C aircraft were confirmed in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo by UN Protection Force spokesman Major Dacre Halloway.

Serbs Cite 'Open Agression'

LD1004184394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1832 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Cajnice, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—The NATO combat air force carried out an attack in the area of Preljuc and Goli Vrh, some 12 km southwest of Gorazde, at about 1820 this evening, the command of the Herzegovina Corps said in a statement.

This was an act of open aggression against the people of eastern Herzegovina, an action against civilian targets far from the front line, it was stressed at the corps command.

The command did not confirm claims by western agencies that NATO planes (reportedly U.S. F-16's) had hit two Serb tanks.

NATO Details Bombing

AU1004190194 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, April 10 (AFP)—Two NATO warplanes on Sunday carried out air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions around the besieged Moslem town of Gorazde, following a major Serb offensive, a UN military spokesman said here. [passage omitted]

The warplanes dropped bombs using UNPROFOR air-to-ground guidance systems and "provided close air support to United Nations personnel in Gorazde," the NATO Southern Command announced in Naples, Italy. [passage omitted]

NATO officials in Naples said the air attack occurred around 6:22 p.m. (1622 GMT). "Battle damage assessment is underway," NATO announced. [passage omitted]

The NATO spokesman in Brussels said further details would be made available after consultation with military authorities. [passage omitted]

Serbs Report Civilian Casualties

LD1004194294 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1920 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Sarajevo, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—NATO planes fired four missiles against civilian targets in the south-eastern part of the Srpska republic, General Milan Gvero, deputy chief of staff of the Srpska republic's army, has confirmed to SRNA.

He stressed that there are some civilian casualties and that the consequences of the air strikes are being investigated, but he did not give the precise locality where the NATO strike took place.

The information service of the Herzegovina Corps has confirmed that two U.S. NATO planes carried out an attack in the area of Srbinje, southeast of Gorazde, at about 1820.

British Troops Direct Air Strike

LD1004202494 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1939 GMT 10 Apr 94

[By John von Radowitz and Charles Miller, PRESS ASSOCIATION correspondents]

[Text] An elite squad of British SAS [Special Air Service] troops in Gorazde tonight directed U.S. war planes to bomb Serb forces threatening the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde. The seven-strong highly specialised unit gave precise locations of Serb forces surrounding the enclave. Two U.S. F-16s joined the NATO attack and destroyed at least two Serb tanks. Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the British commander of UN forces in Bosnia, called for the action after Serb forces reached the outskirts of the town where some 65,000 people have been holed up by the fighting. Several patrol groups from the Hereford-based SAS regiment were ordered into a number of Muslim enclaves following a specific request from Gen Rose, himself a former SAS officer and commander. Trained to operate in small self-sufficient patrol teams they are the ideal reconnaissance troops to feed back information on front line positions and weapons.

UN military sources in Zagreb said of the SAS soldiers: "They were providing information on the ground which would have a bearing on air support." The decision to mount the attack came after a crisis meeting in Sarajevo between Gen Rose and his superior, General Bernard de Lapresle, the commander in charge of all UN forces in the former Yugoslavia, an United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman said. Gen Rose had earlier been en route to Brussels but turned back in Split because of the gravity of the situation.

U.S. planes have engaged Serb air forces over Bosnia in the past but this was the first premeditated strike of its kind. It was also the first time NATO had launched air strikes to deter Serb forces from attacking a UN-declared "safe area" in Bosnia. The threat of air strikes forced the Serbs to withdraw their guns from Sarajevo in February.

Major Dacre Holloway, the UNPROFOR spokesman in Sarajevo, said the airstrike operation was "still on-going" and damage assessment was under way. He said no British planes had been involved in the strike. "They are NATO aircraft involved—we do not discriminate between them," he added. "Damage assessment is taking place. The whole operation is on-going at the moment," he added.

'Tremendous Relief' Following Strike

AU1004194994 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, April 10 (AFP)—[passage omitted] Aid workers said that Serb shelling of Gorazde had ceased after the [NATO] air strikes, bringing relief after the assault on the town, while civilians had taken advantage of the lull to take the wounded to hospital.

In Brussels, NATO diplomats said the strikes occurred some 45 minutes after UNPROFOR forces were attacked from a position occupied by Bosnian Serbs.

The Serb military command for Herzegovina, carrying out the offensive on Gorazde, said NATO planes had struck Bosnian Serb positions in the Preljuca and Goli Vrh region, 12 kilometres (seven miles) southwest of the town. [passage omitted]

The private Italian television station TG5 said the planes left from Aviano in northeast Italy and reported that the attack had left casualties, but gave no sources. [passage omitted]

A UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman in Belgrade, Lyndall Sachs, said: "The town (Gorazde) is calm and there is a feeling of tremendous relief among the people" after a day of panicked fleeing before the Serb offensive.

"Now everyone is catching their breath," Eric Stobbaerts, Belgrade representative for Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF: Doctors Without Borders) said, "and waiting to see what will happen tonight." [passage omitted]

Shelling Continues Despite Air Strike

LD1004205494 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Report by Fahrudin Becic from Gorazde]

[Excerpts] Several questions are being raised in Gorazde: Are the chetniks really going to enter the town, will Mirsad Dragolj [not further identified] blow up the nitrogen factory (?despite the fact) that the U.S. Phantoms [as received] have bombed the Chetnik positions.

It is impossible to give precise answers to any of these questions. Since 1700 two Phantoms have been flying over the Gorazde area. We do not have valid information about their actions, but according to some reports from the ground, strong explosions were heard 13 kilometers southwest of the town center.

Since the attacks against the territory on the right bank of the Drina River have been organized and carried out from

there in the last 13 days, it seems possible that the report on the Phantoms' actions is true.

This, however, did not stop the Chetnik forces continuing [word indistinct] toward the center. Some eye-witnesses claim that the Chetniks even shot at the planes.

The part of the town on the right bank on the Drina River has been evacuated. The town was again heavily shelled this evening. There were fatalities and wounded in several suburbs. Chetnik snipers fired on the town center and around the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] offices.

Heavy small-arms fighting is under way on the approaches to the town. Some people have been killed and wounded. [passage omitted]

Around 2030 the howitzer-shelling of the town center intensified. Unfortunately, there were fatalities again. I am afraid that the casualty toll today is extremely high. Gorazde is entering the most uncertain night in its long history.

Serbs: Muslims Using Chemical Agents

AU1004204294 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Report by Scepan Aleksic from Cajnice]

[Text] At about 1820 this evening, NATO forces bombed the forces of the Herzegovina Corps in the region of Preljuc and Goli Vrh, some 13 kilometers southwest of Gorazde. NATO air forces carried out one attack.

The Command of the Herzegovina Corps is still not presenting details as to whether the Serbian forces have suffered any losses in the bombing. There is no confirmation of reports carried in foreign media that two Serbian tanks have been destroyed.

With this act, as most responsible people in the Command of the Herzegovina Corps claim, NATO forces fell for Muslims lies, and without any warning carried out open aggression on the army and people of the Serbian Republic [of Bosnia-Herzegovina]. The Command of the Herzegovina Corps this evening stated that the units of the Herzegovina Corps did not enter Gorazde, thus denying reports by the Muslim radio that they had already taken half of the town.

Without checking the facts, this report was carried by many western agencies this afternoon. That these claims are groundless can be concluded by the statements of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] representatives. It is incorrect that artillery is shelling the city center of Gorazde, which is also an invention by the Muslim propaganda machinery. Chemical agents have not been used, as claimed by foreign agencies. The truth is that chemical agents were used by the Muslims yesterday and this morning, but without any major consequences for the Serbian fighters.

UN Threatens More Air Strikes

AU1004201294 Paris AFP in English 2002 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Geneva, April 10 (AFP)—The United Nations warned Sunday it would order more air strikes against Serb forces around the eastern Bosnian town of Gorazde if necessary.

Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali "would like to make it very clear that he will not hesitate to use airpower again to protect UN-designated safe areas," said UN spokeswoman Therese Gastaut. Gorazde is one of six such areas in Bosnia.

Two U.S. F-16 fighter planes attacked Serb positions near Gorazde Sunday, officials in Washington and Brussels said.

The air raids were ordered by the top UN official in the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, in consultation with Butrus-Ghali to protect eight UN observers in the Gorazde enclave, Gastaut said.

U.S. F-16 warplanes carried out two sorties, at 1625 GMT and 1629 GMT, she said. She characterized the attacks as "close air support" rather than air strikes in the traditional sense because the objective was to protect the observers and other UN staff in Gorazde.

On Saturday Butrus-Ghali instructed the UN force in Bosnia to use all means necessary to force the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw to positions they held before their Gorazde offensive began in late March.

Permanent Squadron To Be Installed

LD1004204994 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 2026 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The two American F-16 fighters, which this afternoon attacked Serb positions around the town of Gorazde, have returned safely to the U.S. Air Force base at Aviano in northeast Italy.

In the meantime it has been revealed that the two planes were flying a reconaissence mission over Bosnia when they received the order—using a secret code—to intervene in Gorazde.

Tomorrow a permanent intervention squadron will be installed at Aviano, the first of its type at an Italian airbase.

Izetbegovic Receives Redman

LD1004214594 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] President of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency Alija Izetbegovic today received U.S. President Clinton's special envoy Charles Redman regarding the most dramatic situation in Gorazde. The talks were also attended by Bosnia-Herzegovina Premier Haris Silajdzic and U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Victor Jakovich.

The situation in Gorazde is critical indeed. We are examining the problem very seriously, and I hope the necessary steps will be taken. This is all I can tell you, Redman said following the meeting.

Asked by reporters whether the ferocity of the fighting has subsided following the threat of air strikes unless an end is put to the offensive, Redman says: This was in the morning [as heard]. Since noon the situation has changed and become very serious due to Serb advances.

Turkish President Demirel talked over the phone with Izetbegovic late this afternoon. President Demirel called President Izetbegovic to tell him that Turkey would do its best to initiate actions that would provide protection for the citizens of Gorazde.

Serb General Visits Front

LD1004220894 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 2135 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Rebroadcast of Pale Serb Television news item; from the HTV "Slikom Na Sliku" political magazine program]

[Excerpts] The army of so-called Bosnia-Herzegovina today again launched a desperate attack from Trebesko Brdo, Mount Bula, and the valleys of the Drina and Praca against the front lines of the Serb army's 2 Drina Brigade near Ustipraca.

The attack with mortars, recoilless guns, and anti-aircraft guns began early this morning. Then the artillery also joined in. Well prepared for this sort of surprise, the Serb soldiers responded with all available weapons. [passage omitted]

The enemy attack was halted and the green berets withdrew deep into their territory. One Serb soldier was killed and two were wounded.

General Ratko Mladic today visited the first combat lines of the Serb army at the Gorazde front. He had lenghty talks with the commanders and soldiers.

Serbs Suspend Contacts With UN

LD1104083494 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0106 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—The supreme command of the Bosnian Srpska republic armed forces assessed late tonight [10 April] that by bombing Serb territory the United Nations sided against Serbs in the civil war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina, and announced that all contacts between the Srpska republic and UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] were suspended.

A statement from the command, forwarded to TANJUG from the Srpska republic president's office stresses that: The attacks on the Serbs were carried out in order to prevent the realization of the Serb proposal on a complete and lasting cessation of hostilities.

Noting that the Serb side was determined to persist in its commitment to an immediate and lasting peace, but also to the energetic defense of the Srpska republic and Serb national interests, the supreme command stresses that the Serbs will not be frightened and that they will keep the right to self-defense with all available weapons.

The text of the statement by the supreme command of the armed forces of the Bosnian Srpska republic reads:

1. The supreme command of the Srpska republic armed forces lodges a sharp protest with the United Nations over the bombing of Serb territory. It is not true that UNPROFOR personnel were in danger, and there is no justification for the use of NATO's air force. By doing this, the United Nations has sided against the Serbs in this civil war. Further cooperation of the Srpska republic with UNPROFOR has been brought into question, and all contacts between the Srpska republic and UNPROFOR are now suspended.

2. The supreme command of the Bosnian Srpska republic's armed forces is informing the international public about the Serb proposal for a complete and lasting cessation of hostilities. This proposal was not accepted by the Muslim side and was not supported by UNPROFOR. By protecting the Muslim offensive from defeat, the United Nations is prolonging the war and suffering. The attack on the Serbs was carried out in order to prevent the realization of the Serb proposal on a complete and lasting cessation of hostilities.

3. The peace process has been put in jeopardy and the UN bears the responsibility for it. The Serb side is determined to persist in its commitment to an immediate and lasting peace, and to the energetic defense of the Serb republic and Serb national interests.

4. The soldiers of the Srpska republic are forced to choose between being killed or responding to the offensive. Politically motivated elements in NATO and the United Nations are encouraging Muslim attacks against Serbs in order to take the Serb response as a cause for military intervention. The Serbs will not be frightened, and they will keep the right to self-defense with all available weapons. This is said in the statement by the supreme command of the armed forces of the Srpska republic.

Want Negotiations Only With Churkin

LD1104142094 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1349 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Novi Sad, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the people's assembly of the Srpska republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, today told Novi Sad Radio that following the bombardment of the Serb forces around Gorazde negotiations with UN representatives would only be conducted through Russian special envoy Vitaliy Churkin.

Krajisnik added that the Srpska republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina no longer trusted other mediators since they had been abusing the trust of the top leadership of the Srpska republic.

Krajisnik also pointed out that it was a totally obvious fact that the Muslim forces had provoked the Serbs around Gorazde to shatter the cessation of hostilities and an agreement on peace. Instead of the Muslim forces bearing responsibility for the conflicts around Gorazde, the NATO aircraft bombed the positions of Serb units near Gorazde.

'Bestial' Overnight Shelling

AU1104084194 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Fahrudin Becic report]

[Text] There was no peace in Gorazde overnight. The Chetniks attacked the southern access to the town (?with infantry) throughout the night. Until midnight, they were attacking individual parts of the town and the [word indistinct] itself with howitzer and tank grenades. Afterward, they attacked [words indistinct] defense lines with mortars and the town [word indistinct] with snipers.

This morning [words indistinct] somewhat intensified [words indistinct] that lasted here the entire night [words indistinct]. Shortly after 0800 [words indistinct], and infantry battles are under way in the area of the right bank access to the town.

According to preliminary reports, the consequences of the bestial overnight shelling are seven [words indistinct] and [word indistinct] injured. Some of them [passage indistinct] in areas from which it is not possible to reach the town, is not known yet.

Rose Warns of Fresh Strikes

LD1104094494 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0821 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The British United Nations commander in Bosnia warned today that he was prepared to order fresh air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces beseiging the Muslim enclave of Gorazde if United Nations troops were put at risk.

But Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose said he hoped yesterday's NATO air strike against Bosnian Serb positions round Gorazde, a designated "safe haven," would not interfere with efforts to bring peace to the war-torn country.

He said he did not want to over-dramatise the air strike. But he warned: "If we find ourselves in a similar condition we will have to take appropriate action."

The NATO air strikes were ordered under the authority of a United Nations Security Council resolution after Bosnian Serb forces ignored repeated warnings to halt an assault on Gorazde.

Sir Michael said: "I remain hopeful that what was a limited military tactical action yesterday will not interfere with something which is far more important—bringing peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina in toto."

But earlier on the same programme a spokesman for the Bosnian Serbs warned: "If the air strikes go on we are in a position of war with the United Nations."

Sir Michael said the UN was a peace-keeping organisation. Its troops were in Bosnia to help feed 2.7 million people in conditions of war, and remained neutral, impartial and non-combatant.

He went on: "But we have the right to self-defence if people fire on us. I would use the best means available to preserve the lives and limbs of my soldiers," he told the BBC Radio 4 programme Today. "If the best means available is air, then I will use air, and that is what happened last night. But I do not want to over-dramatise what happened last night. We were acting in self-defence in support of UN Security Council resolution 836.

"I very much hope that shelling will not start again. If we find ourselves in a similar condition we will have to take appropriate action."

He went on: "We have a peace process developing here. I hope we can extend the peace process to the Bosnian Serb side. We were close to it. We remain, I hope, close to it. We should not allow a tactical situation of response by our troops to abrade this peace process, which will bring peace throughout Bosnia Herzogovina."

There were continuing discussions over the whole of last week on developing some peace process, and considerable progress was made.

"I remain hopeful that what was a limited, military tactical action yesterday will not interfere with something which is far more important, bringing peace to Bosnia Herzegovina in toto."

Sir Michael added: "There is no shelling going on in Gorazde at the moment according to my reports. Five minutes ago the town was quiet I am delighted to say."

Two isolated shells fell in Gorazde during the night, he said, but were not significant in terms of the overall situation in the town.

Sir Michael said last night that he called in a strike by two American F-16s after a Serb tank started firing directly into Gorazde.

Earlier, Bosnian Serb spokesman Jovan Zematica told the Today programme: "There was no shelling of the town of Gorazde before or at the time of the air attack on Serb positions." Military activity in the area was started by the Muslims, he claimed, adding: "We have every right to defend ourselves and to take whatever military action we deem necessary to defend ourselves.

"If the United Nations acting from the air threaten Serbian lives, the behaviour of our troops on the ground towards UNPROFOR (UN peace-keeping) troops on the ground cannot any longer be guaranteed. And if the air strikes go on we are in a position of war with the United Nations."

Serb Attack Continues

AU1104115994 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Geneva, April 11 (AFP)—Bosnian Serbs on Monday continued shelling the mainly Moslem town of Gorazde, reportedly injuring some 200 people, a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman said here.

Shells hit a school that was being used as a refugee centre and some 200 people were said to be injured, Christiane Berthiaume said, citing reports from four UNHCR personnel in the Moslem enclave in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Muslim Attacks Follow Air Strikes

LD1104131594 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1251 GMT 11 Apr 94

["Pool" item]

[Text] Banja Luka, April 11 (TANJUG)—Following Sunday's bombing by the NATO aircraft of Bosnian Serb targets south of Gorazde, Bosnian Moslem forces attacked early on Monday Serb positions along several major directions, along which they have been undertaking offensive actions for days already.

Supported by their artillery, Moslems attacked from Bugojno in the direction of Srbobran, central Bosnia, while the corridor and Serb positions near Brcko and Doboj bore the brunt of Moslem attacks in northern Bosnia.

Early on Monday Moslem forces delivered a heavy mortar-infantry attack 7 km southwest of Brcko on Serb positions in the area of Ulice, Lukici and Lipovac, Bosnian Serb military sources said.

Members of the Bosnian Serb army defending access points to Brcko and the corridor linking eastern and western Bosnia and the republic of Serb Krajina, responded to the attack and a lull followed in that part of the front along the River Sava valley.

Moslem units are launching heavy attacks along nearly all directions around Doboj, the sources said.

Moslem forces on Monday resumed unabated artillery attacks on the western positions on the Doboj front and its suburbs and residential areas.

Except for a few observations by U.N. representatives that Moslems were undertaking offensive actions in the Doboj region and warnings to them not to provoke Serbs, there were no stronger reactions by the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to a nearly two-week-long Moslem offensive on Doboj, Bosnian Serb sources said. The media attention was in that period focused on Gorazde, from which 10,000 Moslem troops mounted a fierce offensive and thus provoked the Serb counter-offensive.

Serb positions and localities on the right bank of the River Bosna, from Zavidovici to Maglaj (south of Doboj), were a target of heavy infantry and mortar fire. Serb forces did not have any casualties and repulsed a stronger artillery-infantry attack in the Trebava front, northeast of Doboj.

Moslem forces did not cease attacks on the Srbobran front either, from the direction of Bugojno in central Bosnia. Attacks were renewed along almost all sectors of the front in this area, Bosnian Serb military sources reported on Monday.

Since the outset of the all-out Moslem offensive on the Bosnian Serb Republic mounted late in March, forces of Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic have been trying to reopen the strategically important road to Jajce and western Bosnia, by breaking through Serb lines in the direction of Srbobran.

Second NATO Air Strike Reported

LD1104125394 Paris Radio France International in French 1200 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Two NATO air raids in two days in Bosnia-Herzegovina. NATO aircraft have just attacked Serb positions again around the Muslim enclave of Gorazde. This news has not been officially confirmed yet by the United Nations.

Some hours ago, the UN special representative for Bosnia was warning that new air strikes were possible in case of threats against the safe havens. Yasushi Akashi was speaking in Paris. Shortly after the Atlantic Alliance apparently carried out a second air strike against the surrounding Serb positions, shelling the Muslim enclave of Gorazde. More details with Denis Hourdan:

[Hourdan] It seems that NATO planes are carrying out new air strikes on Serb positions around Gorazde. For the time being UN official spokesmen in Sarajevo refuse to confirm the news given by a UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] civilian who was in General Rose's command post in Sarajevo. This UN official told us that new raids were under way after this morning's heavy shelling of Gorazde. Serbs first targetted Gorazde hospital, and then the residence of UN military observers. This latest move apparently prompted NATO's latest raid. NATO dispatched planes that identified targets. The United Nations refuses to confirm that the planes fired, but apparently new air strikes took place. [passage omitted]

NATO Reports 5 Bombs Dropped

AU1104142094 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Brussels, April 11 (AFP)—Nato forces dropped five 250-kilo (550-lb) bombs in their attack on Serb artillery positions around the embattled town of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia on Sunday [10 April], NATO officials said here Monday.

Two United States Air Force F-16 aircraft were involved in Sunday's strike. One dropped three Mark 82 bombs at 16.22 GMT Sunday and the other dropped two more four minutes later, the officials said.

Late Sunday, NATO forces attempted an air reconnaissance mission to evaluate damage done to the Serb positions, but bad weather prevented them carrying this out successfully, a diplomat said.

U.S. military officials at the Aviano base in Italy said Monday that three 250-kilo bombs had been dropped on Serb positions by the two F-16s.

Karadzic Cancels Meeting With Redman

LD1104080994 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0140 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Bosnian Serb Republic has cancelled his meeting with U.S. special envoy Charles Redman, scheduled for today, explaining the cancellation with the newly arisen situation.

Jovan Zametica, the Serb Republic president's adviser, tonight sent a letter to Viktor Andreyev, the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] spokesman in Sarajevo, informing him about the cancellation.

I am informing you with regret that, in the light of the newly arisen situation and the analysis of the situation on the ground, President Karadzic is unable to meet Charles Redman today, a letter, a copy of which was forwarded to TANJUG, says.

Serb Tanks Fire on Tuzla, Casualties Reported

LD1004174294 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The chetniks from Mount Majevica fired on the town of Tuzla from tanks in the area of Pali Hrast at 1615 and then again after an hour. A civilian was killed in the second attack. The state of general alert is still in force. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] The aggressor's artillery is destroying everything in sight. [passage omitted] Over 1,000 shells fell on our territory, causing great damage. According to reports from the local hospital several people have been wounded. Two soldiers of the Hajrudin Mesic Brigade have been killed. [passage omitted]

Serbs Direct 'Most Intense' Attacks at Doboj

AU1104111694 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Mirudin Aldobasic report from 7 South Operative Group of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army]

[Text] The enemy displayed the most intense activities from (?Sevarlije) and Potocani, with mortars, Bofors guns, antiaircraft machine guns, and antiaircraft guns at the defense lines on the Doboj battlefield and in the zone of responsibility of the Sije independent battalion, as well as at the civilian settlements Mravici, Martuzici, and Ularice.

The Chetniks engaged in attacks with antiaircraft machine guns and antiaircraft guns in the zone of responsibility of the 110th Croatian Defense Council Brigade Usora and the Tesanjka independent battalion.

The enemy also opened [word indistinct] artillery fire [words indistinct] civilian settlements Mirjanovac and Kalosevci and at the defense positions of the 207th Famous Hill Brigade [word indistinct].

There was no peace in other battlefields on this free territory of our country either. The enemy displayed constant provocations along the defense lines in the zone of responsibility of the 7 South Operative Group, which is 135 km long.

Muslims Intensify 'Offensive'

LD1004190094 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1820 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Doboj, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—Muslim units have intensified their offensive and provocative attacks against Serb defense positions and settlements on all parts of the front in the Doboj area, the Information Service of the first Bosnian Krajina corps of the Srpska republic army said this evening.

Reinforced by units from Zavidovici, the enemy launched two fierce combined artillery-infantry attacks in an attempt to break through Serb positions at the southwestern part of the Ozren defense line. [passage omitted]

'Fierce' Inter-Muslim Clashes Reported in West

LD1004172394 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1705 GMT 10 Apr 94

["Pool" item]

[Text] Petrovac, April 10 (TANJUG)—Inter-Moslem clashes on Sunday continued at unabated intensity along all demarcation lines in the Cazin Krajina, in western Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moslem media in the Bihac region reported.

Forces of the Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia (APWB), proclaimed last September, are successfully repelling a fresh offensive by members of the 5th Corps of the Moslem Army, loyal to hardline leader Alija Izetbegovic, the Western Bosnian News Agency ZBIA said.

Moslem-controlled radio in Bihac said that both sides reported casualties and the missing during Sunday's fightings in the Cazin Krajina. This was also confirmed by the Moslem Radio Sarajevo.

The Moslem Army command, loyal to Izetbegovic, has admitted that 500 people were killed and over 2,000 wounded during eight months of fighting with the APWB forces, loyal to Izetbegovic's rival Fikret Abdic who opposes Izetbegovic policy of war.

Muslim-Croat Relations Tense in Kiseljak Area

LD1004164094 Mostar Croatian Radio Herceg-Bosna in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Report by Armonko Grgic for Herceg-Bosna from Busovaca]

[Excerpt] The police station in Busovaca has informed us that a bus full of civilians that left Busovaca for Kiseljak at 0930 was turned back from the joint checkpoint in the village of Brestovsko in the Kiseljak municipality because the Muslim side would not let it through to Croat-held territory. The Muslims said that the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] would not allow free movement of humanitarian aid convoys to the Muslim side. All this was caused by an incident in Kresevo where a Muslim sniper killed an HVO soldier. The road between Busovaca and Kiseljak was opened three days ago. [passage omitted]

Muslim Forces Attack Serbs Near Brcko

LD1104090294 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0737 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Brcko, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—Early this morning, Muslim forces launched a heavy combined mortar and infantry attack from the direction of Pejici and Pejina, seven kilometers south of Brcko. They attacked Serb positions in the areas of Ulice, Lukici, and Lipovac, Serb military sources have announced.

More than 20 60-mm and 82-mm mortar shells were fired on the Serb defense lines, followed by fierce fire from infantry weapons.

Members of the Serb republic army responded to the attack, after which there has been a lull in this section of the Posavlje [River Sava valley] battlefield.

Last night and this morning was mainly quiet on the Gradacac and Orasje battlefronts [northern Bosnia].

Serbs Attack Brcko

AU1104111294 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpts] At 0615 this morning the enemy moved into a ferocious tank-infantry attack on Omerbegovaca-Vranovaca line, which was supported substantially by the artillery. Almost simultaneously, the aggressor struck at civilian targets on the free Brcko territory with tanks, howitzers, and 120-mm mortars.

All of last night the enemy shelled the entire defense line of the 108th Motorized Brigade. [passage omitted]

The enemy is concentrating great amounts of manpower and military hardware on the first lines of the front, especially on Omerbegovaca [word indistinct] line and in the central part of the Brcko battlefield.

In the area of [word indistinct], where two Gazela helicopters attacked our positions yesterday, we have observed the arrival of another enemy combat helicopter.

The arrival of enemy reinforcements continues.

Muslims Capture Serb Prisoners in Tarcin

LD1004205994 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The dramatic situation in Gorazde has been reflected on the events in Tarcin. Our correspondent from Tarcin has sent us this report:

All access roads to Tarcin are still blocked. According to reports we have received so far, the situation is becoming increasingly complex according to Bosnia-Hercegovina radio broadcasts about the dramatic situation at the Gorazde battlefield. At the first roadblock in Tarcin, we have learned that despite all measures carried out by police forces of the Hadzici public security station, soldiers of the Fifth Hill Brigade, and members of the antiterrorist squad, embittered citizens from eastern Bosnia [Muslim refugees] and the local people expressing solidarity with their demands have seized silos in which the arrested aggressor soldiers are being held.

Judging by the shots we heard fired from infantry weapons, the Tarcin drama culminated this evening. This was immediately followed by sirens of ambulance cars in Tarcin. However, we still have not received any details about casualties. We are unable to get details because Tarcin is completely blocked. [passage omitted]

As we are filing this report, we have just received a report that police forces and members of the antiterrorist squad have seized the control of the silo prison again. However, the protesters have taken three aggressor soldiers in an unknown direction. [passage omitted]

'Tense' Muslim-Serb Talks in Sarajevo Viewed

LD0904155094 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1452 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Sarajevo, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—A meeting between the commanders of the [Bosnian] Serb and Muslim armies, with UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Forces] mediation, which began around 1300 at Sarajevo airport, is still under way this afternoon, and could go on for several hours.

As TANJUG's correspondent has learned, the talks are difficult and tense, and it is completely uncertain whether the standpoints of the two sides will come closer, and whether a cease-fire agreement will be signed.

The commander of the main headquarters of the Srpska republic army, Lt. Col. Gen. Ratko Mladic; the commander of the Muslim forces, Gen. Rasim Delic; and the UNPROFOR commander for former Bosnia-Herzegovina, Gen. Michael Rose, are holding talks behind closed doors.

Today's meeting is a result of efforts made yesterday by Gen Rose to get both commanders to the negotiating table.

However, their different standpoints on the peace agreement have not been reconciled and it could be said that bridging this gap will be the central topic of the talks.

TANJUG has learned from reliable sources that the Muslim side arrived at the meeting with a 14-day cease-fire offer, insisting that Gorazde be the main topic.

However, as Gen. Mladic pointed out at the meeting, the Serb side does not want to discuss partial and short-term solutions, but it has offered talks on an overall and unconditional truce along all demarcation lines in former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Thus the Serb side is not prepared to discuss any particular front outside the context of the overall situation; this is contrary to the standpoints of the Muslim forces' command, which is trying to give top priority, in achieving a truce, to those battlefields where which the situation is developing in a way completely out of keeping with its wishes and aims.

Serbs Discover Aid Convoy Smuggling Ammunition

AU0904191194 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] In Kasindol Street in Sarajevo, the Serbian police stopped a convoy of a French nongovernment humanitarian organization Premiere Urgence because it found several boxes of ammunition in the convoy's vehicles. The headquarters of the army of the Srpska republic has stated that an investigation is underway and that a statement on this will be issued this evening. For the time being we only have pictures of this, which have already been sent to the world. Comments would be unnecessary anyway. [The studio announcer-read report is followed by a 2-minute video of Serbian policemen discovering ammunition in trucks with European Union and Premiere Urgence markings]

Expected Aid Convoys Fail To Arrive

LD1104120994 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1115 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Zvornik, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—No humanitarian or logistical convoys have arrived on the left [western] bank of the River Drina today, and no convoys went in the other direction, toward the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, TANJUG's correspondent has learned from the command of the Zvornik garrison of the Bosnian Serb republic army.

The same source says that several humanitarian and logistical convoys announced their arrival for today, and the Serb side granted them permission to cross the territory of the Serb republic. However, they have failed to arrive, and officials in Zvornik have not received any official explanation for this. [passage omitted]

Izetbegovic, Delic Address Military Conference

AU0704172894 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] An expert conference for about 200 officers of the Military Security Service and Military Police of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was held in Sarajevo today. The Security Administration of the Ministry of Defense and the Military Security Sector of the 1st Corps organized the conference. Participants in the conference were addressed by Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency, among others. Here is a report by Edin Muhic:

[Begin recording] [Muhic] The aim of today's conference is to examine the experience so far in the work of the Military Security Service and the Military Police and to define further tasks. Among others, Rasim Delic, commander of the Headquarters of the Supreme Command of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina; Defense Minister Hamdija Hadzihasanovic; and Bakir Alispahic, minister of internal affairs attended the conference and submitted reports. Jusuf Jasarevic, head of the Military Security Administration, submitted an introductory report.

Jasarevic pointed out that the present security situation is much better than it was some half a year ago, and the cooperation between the Military Security Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs is at a satisfying level. In the future, the focus will be on preventing the enemy's subversive activity and at the same time on further clearing units from criminals and other forms of law violation, Jasarevic said.

Defense Minister Hamdija Hadzihasanovic spoke about the government's activity on organizing and strengthening the Army. As regards duties of the Military Security Service, Minister Hadzihasanovic said the following:

[Hadzihasanovic] The main aim of the Military Security Service is to prevent the enemy from obtaining information about our forces and intentions and to make it impossible for him to undermine the moral-political unity and combat readiness of the units and to carry out espionage, sabotage, and other subversive activities in our ranks.

Participants in the conference were then addressed by Alija Izetbegovic, president of the republic Presidency. From his speech, we shall single out a part dealing with the need to prevent deviant phenomena in the work of the Security Service.

[Izetbegovic] In your job, you should (?compound) [word indistinct] into another component that is very important, and that is respect for man, that is, a certain humanism. Sometimes, these services may turn into, well, (?only one sharp edge), a (?sharp edge) of a sort of struggle against the enemy and are sometimes forgetting the other (?thing), that is, that they should at the same time respect the law (?well), that they should be careful. As you know, it has happened, not in our country though, but has nevertheless happened that those services escape control and sometimes do some things that are not all right and that [word

indistinct] struggle against the enemy, they sometimes forget that they may sometimes trample upon or crush or squash some innocent man and so on and to be (?too severe).

[words indistinct] to nourish these two things— professionalism and humanism in your work, and the more professional you are, you shall probably be more humane as well.

[Muhic] After President Izetbegovic, Army General Rasim Delic took the floor. He said that one should continue this upward trend of strengthening the system of Military Security and Military Service and added the following:

[Delic] It is necessary to continue to ensure close links among organs and units that deal with security in all institutions of our society, as that is the only way to ensure unity of all factors on the protection of basic values of the system we are building and will continue building.

In this respect, it is [word indistinct] for the Military Security Service to enjoy support by all those people who desire a stable democratic state and the protection of the people from all forms of endangerment of its security and (?survival).

[Muhic] Let us add at the end that it was concluded at today's conference that with a view to ensuring an expert training of the cadres, such conferences should (?in future) be held at the seats of three corps of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thereby the security actions that are already under way and those that are yet to be carried out will certainly be even more (?fearful) and deadly. [end recording]

Commentary Criticizes 'Coalition,' U.S. Mediation

AU1104102994 Belgrade VECERNJE NOVOSTI in Serbo-Croatian 4 Apr 94 p 4

[Commentary by Tatjana Lenard: "A Plot Against the Serbs"]

[Text] The latest Muslim offensive against the Srpska republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has shown the real character of the Muslim-Croatian marriage. Just as the Serbs predicted, the Muslim-Croatian coalition was not made for peace, but for a new war.

After the Muslims in Bosnia realized that they would not be able to reach their territorial aspirations—which even the United States considers too lofty—at the negotiating table, they turned to the gods of war. They think that they have more chances for success now. According to Serbian military sources, Muslim troops are getting weapons and equipment through various humanitarian operations. The NATO ultimatum and the loosening of the Serbian military ring around Sarajevo have enabled Alija Izetbegovic to transfer tens of thousands of soldiers from Sarajevo to other fronts, from where they are now attacking Serbian positions.

Apart from that, since the Washington agreement was signed, nobody asks what Croatian Army troops are doing in Bosnia anymore. Through the alliance with the Muslims under the SDA [Party of Democratic Action] patronage, Croatia—against which sanctions should have been introduced on Muslim request because of the presence of over 50,000 soldiers in Bosnia—has become a legal participant in the war since it is now defending the borders of the future confederation.

It is becoming clear now why Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, accepted this absurd union with the Bosnian Muslims, which will neither enable him to reestablish the Independent State of Croatia nor to prevent the creation of an Islamic state in the heart of Europe. On the contrary, owing to demography and to the huge capital Muslim countries have, it can be assumed that a strong Muslim state, in which Croatian children would have to learn the Koran, could reach the Adriatic Sea. It is obvious that the Croatian president was not only attracted by the promises about NATO and European Union membership for his country and by the return of Krajina to Croatian jurisdiction. He was far more attracted by the legal nature of Muslim-Croatian military actions that should bring new territories to both Muslims and Croats—which they would share and then part. The Muslim-Croatian confederation is probably only a temporary marriage of convenience. This assumption is also supported by the meeting announced for the 5 April in Ankara between the Bosnian Muslims and Croats and the Turkish military leadership.

The leading peacemakers, the United States and the European Union, are passively observing all this, and it is not excluded that they might help their friends by a NATO action against the Serbs under the pretext that they are protecting the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR]. Judging by the UN Security Council resolution on the extension of the UNPROFOR mandate, such a recipe can also be applied to Krajina now.

It has been once again proven that the U.S. peacemaking efforts are nothing else but favoring of the Serbian enemies, or—as Mrs. Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, stated in Sarajevo—it is yet another proof that the United States is a real friend of the Muslims. Under these conditions, it can hardly be expected that the Serbian side will accept the unequal treatment, the politics of accomplished facts in negotiations, and blackmail in connection with the removal of the sanctions. The United States should finally realize that its political and, as they are announcing, military presence is not enough to resolve the situation in Bosnia.

Without the real wish to achieve peace and an active participation of the Serbian side under equal conditions, without political, economic and military blackmail, the peace in the former Yugoslavia will not have a real chance.

Commentator Assesses Threats Against Serbs

AU0904162894 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Commentary by Slavoljub Susic]

[Text] While the long-prepared offensive by the Bosnian Muslims on the Srpska republic gradually dies down, influential international players, especially the United States, are launching a new diplomatic-political-media offensive seasoned with sharp threats and pressure on Serbs. What is actually hiding behind this? Here is a military-political commentary by Slavoljub Susic:

[Susic] It took the hawks from the world's power centers and influential media more than 10 days to speak up for the umpteenth time in order to protect the interests of the Bosnian Muslims, who rushed into yet another offensive against the Srpska republic. Their initial silence is better understood if one takes into account the already well-known stand of U.S. officials that it would be wrong to deny Muslims the right to fight when they are stronger, when they have more weapons, and when they are scoring military successes.

Of course, whenever their proteges overestimate their own forces and get their fingers burned, the Serbs are accused of responding to the allegedly sporadic provocations with disproportionate ferocity. This recently happened near Gorazde. However, had the Security Council's Resolutions 824 and 836 on the setting up and protection of the safe havens been consistently implemented, the Muslim forces would have not had the opportunity to launch attacks on the Serbian positions from these zones before UN eyes.

Participants in the closed sessions of the Security Council concluded more than once that the protected zones, including that of Gorazde, were being abused: that they were being used for training, regrouping, and recruitment of troops, which are then used to attack Serbs. This is also confirmed by the report of the UN Secretariat presented at this week's marathon session of the Security Council, which states, among other things, that there is well-founded suspicion that the Serbian attack on Gorazde was provoked by Muslim military forces in Srebrenica.

Nevertheless, this did not sway the belligerent head of U.S. diplomacy, Christopher, from insisting on a swift dispatch of peace troops to Gorazde so that his country could have a good argument for launching an initiative on air strikes on Serbs if they, as he said, obstruct the deployment of the Blue Helmets.

Defense Minister William Perry had to thoroughly explain his statement that the United States will not wage a war in Bosnia because of Gorazde. Those who advocate the punishment of Bosnian Serbs with air strikes according to the already prepared Sarajevo recipe were not satisfied with the explanation of General Shalikashvili, head of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, either, namely that Gorazde is not Sarajevo. It is interesting, but not surprising, that French Defense Minister Leotard does not agree with Gen. Shalikashvili's cautious statement. He wants UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] to decide whether or not it needs NATO's support, and claims that air strikes on Serb positions would technically be feasible, if only the political will existed for it.

Of course, one should not be surprised by the fact that the United States is again generously offering its air force when one knows that the United States does not have troops on the hostile terrain of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the combat regions. It plans to send them there only once a stable agreement on peace is reached. In the search for an answer as to the purpose of a new cannonade of accusations, threats, and pressure on only one side in the ethnic civil war, we find that this could be a kind of ground artillery preparation for U.S. envoy Redman's efforts in Sarajevo and Pale. As we have learned, the aim of his latest mission is to finally obtain the Muslims' minimum territorial demands and establish the maximum territorial concessions that the Serbs are prepared to make for the newly created Muslim-Croatian Federation, prior to a new stage in the realization of the coordinated U.S.-Russian initiative for settling the crisis in Bosnia.

If this is indeed the case, then what is the purpose of Clinton's National Security Adviser Anthony Lake's threats that the United States should let the Serbs know that the price of their intransigence is very high. We believe that he too will one day be able to conclude with regret that U.S. policy has failed because it proceeded from erroneous assumptions, as was concluded by Clarke Clifford, former adviser to several U.S. Presidents and Pentagon during the Vietnam war.

Government Welcomes NATO Action Against Serbs

LD1104151494 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] According to a statement by the Croatian Foreign Ministry, the Croatian Government welcomed the resolute NATO action against the military positions of the Bosnian Serbs around the besieged Muslim enclave, that is, the protected area of Gorazde.

The Croatian Government believes that the air strikes against the Serb military positions around Gorazde are a legitimate and justified action in support of the implementation of UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Force] mandate in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The statement stresses the fact that the action followed a blatant violation by Serbs of all UN Security Council resolutions and statements on the protection of Gorazde, and was in keeping with a plan of action jointly elaborated by the United Nations and NATO.

Besides the immediate effect of stopping Serb advances on central Gorazde, and averting danger to the town and tens of thousands of civilians and refugees, the NATO action undoubtedly has a symbolic significance. The NATO air strikes carried out by U.S. fighter-jets shows that, despite the complexity of international coordination mechanisms, it is possible to reach an effective consent at short notice, and that the international community has enough legitimately adopted documents, measures and responses to counter violators of international norms.

The Croatian Government therefore considers the Gorazde action to be the last warning of the international community and a call to certain forces among the Serbian people to stop military activities, blatant violations of international norms and agreements, and to join serious negotiations, in order to find a solution acceptable to all sides and to restore peace, stability, and security in this part of Europe.

RSK President: NATO 'Declared War' on Serbs

AU1104093994 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 0848 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report on a statement by Milan Martic, president of the republic of Serb Krajina, on the NATO air strike on Serbian positions near Gorazde, from Knin; date not given; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...the leadership of the republic of Serbian Krajina [RSK] is deeply embittered by the unparalleled precedent created by NATO forces under the auspices of the United Nations by bombing Serbian positions in the Srpska republic without any announcement or valid reason.

We protest resolutely against such an impertinent action that undermines the root of all efforts to resolve the crisis on the territory of the former Yugoslavia in a peaceful way, the statement emphasizes and then stresses:

The attack of NATO forces against the republic of Serbian Krajina [as heard] further diminished the trust of the Serbian people in the international community, which has been minimal even so far due to its partisan and biased attitude in the past. With such an act of aggression, the international community has declared war on the Serbian people, and is, with the threat of the NATO war machinery, trying to force it, in this way, to embrace immediately the solutions that are in the interest of the other two warring sides and to its detriment.

At the end of the statement issued in light of the NATO attack on Serbian positions in the vicinity of Gorazde, RSK President Milan Martic points out:

The people and the RSK leadership once again give their unreserved support to our brothers in the Srpska republic in their efforts to defend their country and their freedom, won with blood. The responsibility for all possible consequences that can, due to the bombing of the Srpska republic, further (?undermine) the course of the peace process on the territories of the former Yugoslavia will be borne by the perpetrators of this hasty act.

At the same time, we warn the responsible international factors that the RSK will not tolerate any attempts to resolve its future political status through pressures, regardless of where they might come from.

This is all from Knin for the time being—a statement by RSK President Milan Martic in light of the NATO attack.

Protests 'Shocking Precedent'

LD1104102194 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0910 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Knin, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—The people and the leadership of the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] are deeply indignant over the shocking precedent set by NATO forces, under the auspices of the [UN] Security Council, by the bombing of Serb positions in the Srpska republic, with no prior notice and no good reason, RSK President Milan Martic said today.

"We sharply protest this insolent action which has undermined all efforts to end the crisis in the territory of former Yugoslavia by peaceful means," a statement stresses and adds that NATO's attack on the Srpska republic has further shaken the Serb people's confidence in the international community, which was at its lowest level anyway, due to the international community's partisan and biased attitude in the past.

"With this act of aggression the international community has declared war on the Serb people, thus trying to force it—under the threat of NATO's war machinery—to accept solutions which are in the interest of the other two warring sides and detrimental to the Serb people," the RSK president warns.

The statement goes on to say:

"The RSK people and leadership again express their full support for our brothers in the Srpska republic and their efforts to defend their freedom won in blood.

"Those who committed this thoughtless act will bear the blame for all the possible consequences of the bombing of the Srpska republic on the further course of the peace process in the territory of former Yugoslavia.

"At the same time, we warn all the relevant international factors that the RSK will not tolerate any attempts to solve its future political status through pressure and threats, regardless from which side they come."

RSK Assembly Ratifies Cease-Fire Agreement

LD0804151294 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1426 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Knin, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—Following today's lengthy discussions the assembly of the republic of Serb Krajina unanimously ratified the Zagreb agreement on a cease-fire and the separation of Serb and Croatian forces.

Winding up the discussion Assembly Speaker Branko Vojnica described the agreement as a constructive step in the negotiating process toward the restoration of peace.

The Assembly tasked a delegation of the republic of Serb Krajina to the so-called second phase of negotiations referring to economic and humanitarian cooperation not to accept talks on issues which could prejudice political solutions.

As the second phase of negotiations with the Croatian side is yet to begin, the assembly decided that these negotiations be led by a new Krajina government, which is to be formed in about 10 days.

The Krajina parliament also unanimously decided that all agreements and treaties reached in negotiations with Croatia are subject to ratification by the assembly. The assembly session continues.

Granic, Greek Officials Discuss Cease-Fire

LD0804135394 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs—ahead of his scheduled visit to Greece—today received Pavlos Apostolidis, director of the Greek Foreign Ministry Political Relations Office, and the Zagreb-based head of the EC monitoring mission, Greek Ambassador Constantin Yerocostopoulos [names as heard]. The meeting was also attended by Croatian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivo Sanader.

Granic informed his guests about the course of the implementation of the cease-fire agreement between the Croatian authorities and the local Serbs living in UN protected areas, and announced that negotiations would resume next week. Speaking about the peace process in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Granic stressed the importance of the establishment of a total cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the resumption of peace talks. He said that the Serb side should immediately join the talks and that the European Union should be more efficient.

Granic and Sanader also spoke about preparations for the reconstruction of Croatia, for which it is necessary to obtain economic aid, particularly from the European Union, as Croatia is a European country and wishes to join its political and economic trends.

Granic and his guests agreed that relations between Croatia and Greece are good, and that the visit by the Croatian foreign minister to Greece will contribute to their future bilateral cooperation.

RSK: Solution Only Possible Within Conference

LD1004192994 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1910 GMT 10 Apr 94

["Pool" item]

[Text] Knin, April 10 (TANJUG)—Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) President Milan Martic said Sunday that the RSK Parliament maintained that a political solution to the RSK should only be sought within the conference on the former Yugoslavia.

Martic conferred in Knin with Deputy Co-chairman of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia Kai Eide and Russian Ambassador in Zagreb Leonid Kerestedzhiants at a preliminary meeting ahead of the second-round RSK-Krajina talks, opened in March.

The republic of Serb Krajina was proclaimed in 1991 by the local Serbs in their ancestral lands within Croatia's Communist-era arbitrary borders, in response to Croatia's violent secession from the former Yugoslav Federation and its attempt to downgrade the local Serbs' status to that of a national minority. Krajina became a U.N.-Protected Area in March 1992.

In two referendums so far, the RSK Serbs have voted against their return to Zagreb's jurisdiction.

On March 30, RSK and Croatian representatives signed a ceasefire agreement in the Russian embassy in Zagreb. The agreement took effect on April 4.

The RSK Parliament believes that the second phase of the talks, which is to include economic, humanitarian and political issues, could be held in any Russian embassy, except the one in Zagreb, said Martic.

After the talks, Martic assessed them as very useful and voiced his satisfaction with the degree of Eide's and Kerestedzhiants's understanding for RSK stands. He added that only an impartial stand towards the relations in the area could bring about solutions acceptable to all.

Eide, for his part, said that the ceasefire agreement was reached and observed by both sides, adding that the international community was very well prepared for the second-round RSK-Croatia talks which should open as soon as possible.

The international community platform on RSK-Croatia humanitarian relations gives priority to the re-opening of traffic and communications. Also to be discussed in terms of priority are: Industrial cooperation, cooperation in the

field of energy and water supplies, trade and agriculture and lastly, social welfare policy and humanitarian relations issues.

It has been confirmed that the RSK is soon to submit a list of its own priorities.

Eide said that if both sides showed good will and readiness to cooperate, the way they did with the ceasefire agreement, the results would soon follow.

Kerestedzhiants said that it was all up to Knin and Zagreb, adding that reaching a political settlement would also depend on both sides.

De Lapresle Calls Krajina Cease-Fire 'Success'

AU0804165694 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Turanj, Croatia, April 8 (AFP)—A ceasefire agreement between Croatia and breakaway Krajina to end more than two years of conflict is being broadly respected, a UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) commander said here Friday.

Commander Bertrand de Lapresle said the first meeting of a joint Croatian-Serb commission to assess the Krajina ceasefire went off Friday without a hitch and was a "big success."

The meeting was held in a "positive and constructive climate," commented the French UNPROFOR commander, who said he was "very happy" about the "goodwill" shown since a ceasefire was signed March 30.

De Lapresle said the ceasefire terms had been respected but did not specify how far the two forces had withdrawn from the front line. He said they had gone "a long way in the right direction."

According to the accord which took effect Monday, each group was to pull back 1,000 metres (yards) from the front line by Friday 0700 GMT, leaving a buffer zone to be patrolled by UNPROFOR. The withdrawal of heavy weapons was also due to be completed by Friday.

Fighting has been going on for more than two years between Croatian authorities and the self-declared Krajina Serb republic, which occupies a quarter of Croatian territory and which wants union with Serbia.

In Turanj itself, which passed into Serb control in 1992, most houses have been completely destroyed by the fighting.

De Lapresle said a further meeting would be held "very soon" to resolve problems in the four zones placed under UNPROFOR control, which needed "high-level decisions."

Earlier on Friday, Croatia's semi-official agency HINA reported that General Janko Bobetko had complained about Serb forces holding some positions in contravention of the peace agreement.

In a meeting with De Lapresle, Bobetko said the Serbs were holding a position near the airport at Zadar on the Adriatic coast, where its guns also threatened the Zemunik airport recently reopened by Croatian forces, HINA said.

He also complained that Serb forces were blocking access to Jasenovac, a historical site where 600,000 Jews and Serbs were massacred during World War Two by Croatia's Nazi-backed Ustashis.

A delegation of Croatian Jews who wanted to visit the former concentration camp to commemorate the Holocaust were not able to reach Jasenovac Friday, according to the agency. It said the UNPROFOR commander promised to take up Croatian concerns with Serb officials.

Serb Staff Officer Views Infantry Withdrawal

AU0804162994 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report by Danko Peric from Knin]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Marinko Gajic, assistant commander of the General Staff of the Serbian Army of Krajina, has said that members of infantry units had withdrawn by 0900. There have been minor problems in western Slavonia and the assistant commander of the Serbian Army of Krajina expects them to be solved during the day. So far, nothing has been heard from UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces], whose units are going to be deployed between Krajina and Croatian infantry units who have moved apart by one kilometer each.

The first meeting of the central joint commission, attended by Lieutenant General Bertrand De Lapresle, UNPROFOR commander for the former Yugoslavia, is under way in Turanj, near Karlovac.

The second meeting of the first session of the republican assembly is under way in Knin at the moment. It has been learned that the report by the negotiating team to the peace negotiations held in the Russian Embassy in Zagreb is also going to be discussed at the session. It has also been learned that the proposal on prime minister designate and the new government had been taken off the agenda and that this is most probably going to be discussed on 20 April.

Local Commander Refuses To Withdraw

LD0804213994 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Joint Croatian and Serb Krajina commissions on withdrawal held talks today again at a UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] checkpoint near Sarvas in UNPROFOR's sector in eastern Slavonia. Reporter Verica Madjar has more on the results of the talks:

[Begin recording] [Madjar] It has been agreed that the Croatian army will control the village of Brijest, which is south of Osijek, and the Faculty of Agriculture in order to have uninterrupted work and life. In return, certain concessions have been made to the Serb side concerning a part of Nova Tenja and Ostrvo. According to Major General

Djuro Decak, the commander of the Osijek operational area, the Croatian and Serb sides were to start withdrawing their units as early as this morning and to complete the withdrawal by 0900 [0700 GMT] on Sunday 10 April. He stressed that many issues remain unresolved.

[Decak] There are two disputed elements: Vinkovci and Mirkovci. The Croatian side explicitly refuses to withdraw even a single millimeter because Vinkovci is the most urban center on this line of separation. At the same time, the Serbs demand that we withdraw 300 to 500 meters. I refused to do that.

UNPROFOR General Vandick tried to find a compromise. He will come here to examine the situation. The stance of the Croatian side—my stance—is beyond discussion. The Croatian army will not withdraw one millimeter from the line of separation.

I also demanded that a local cemetery in the Nustar area, which is about 300 meters out of the line of separation, be included in Croatian area. That is the other disputed element because from the military point of view the cemetery is a strategic location, and the other side is afraid of it.

[Madjar] Because they failed to reach an agreement, the two sides agreed to hold next round of talks on Tuesday 12 April. [end recording]

Martic: New Krajina Government To Be Appointed

AU1004202294 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Interview with Milan Martic, president of the republic of Serbian Krajina, by Dusan Vojvodic; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Vojvodic] Mr. President, could you say for the Radio and Television of Serbia how the present stage of the implementation of the cease-fire agreement and the separation of forces on the front lines is assessed in Krajina?

[Martic] So far I would say that everything is going according to the agreement. Separation has to a large extent been completed. The UN forces are entering the area between the two forces, this area of 2 km on each side. As envisaged by the agreement, they have the right to carry out inspections up to 20 km inside the territory, where the heavy weapons are stored.

As I said, everything is going according to the plan. There have been no major disagreements. There are some small, minor details that need to be solved and they are being solved in Western Slavonia, where UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Forces] duties are obviously not properly understood, but we are working on it. There will be no problems with that.

[Vojvodic] How are the army and the people of Krajina, whose supreme commander you are, accepting this agreement, and what is their primary objective at present?

[Martic] They are accepting it very well. There have been no problems or provocations from the Croatian side in the past few days, which is understood to mean that they will, after all, adhere to the agreement. However, the army has its objectives and cannot fall asleep. We must think in terms of the possibility of being attacked tomorrow and we must prepare ourselves for a normal existence.

[Vojvodic] In any case, we have observed over the past few days, and we know that you personally, and the people of this region, are in favor of peace, but not at any cost. Could you tell us when the new Krajina government will finally be formed and what its first task will be?

[Martic] The new Krajina government will be formed on 20 April. This government should be a government of national unity, a government of experts. As we have said, we plan to appoint people who can indeed deal with every task, people who can implement in the best possible way what we have emphasized in the program. In other words, they will be able to start the production process. Actually, they should address the six points emphasized in our program. The first, of course, is defense. This had to be placed in first place, then the legal system, the revitalization of the economy and environment, the social program, more aggressive diplomatic activities, especially that in which we are most interested, the unification of Serbian lands.

The biggest problem facing the government is the regulation of the legal system and revitalizing production.

[Vojvodic] There are rumors in [word indistinct] and Krajina that some agreements on this program have been reached with members of almost all parties.

[Martic] [Words indistinct] we have held talks with the majority of people who make decisions in the different parties and found a common language. What I am pleased about is that we are overcoming the small crisis that existed. I think that this will be thrill the entire nation.

Krajina's Mikelic Names Deputy Prime Minister

LD0804155194 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1456 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Kragujevac, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—Borisav Mikelic, Krajina prime minister-designate, stated today that full agreement had been reached with the Democratic Party of Krajina on a government of national unity.

He told Kragujevac Radio that Milan Babic would be appointed deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and in the next few days more details would be disclosed regarding ministers and departments of the new Krajina Government.

Stressing that the basic aim was now to include in production those people returning from the front, Mikelic said there would be no place for war profiteers in Krajina.

"We shall fight them with all means at our disposal, primarily the means of a law-governed state," Mikelic said.

Negotiator Views Cease-Fire Agreement

AU1104093394 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 31 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Slavko Degoricija, president of the state delegation for negotiations with the local Serbs, by Aleksa Crnjakovic; place and date not given: "The Refugees Will Return to Their Homes Within Six Months!"]

[Text] Although, by now, everything is known about the cease-fire agreement signed early Wednesday morning, we asked Slavko Degoricija, one of the negotiators on the Croatian side, to tell us specifically if the refugees can now return to the protected areas, who will organize their return, and when.

[Crnjakovic] Mr. Degoricija, can the people of Skabrnja return to their village, and who should organize that?

[Degoricija] The agreement itself is so global that its function is not only the ceasefire and putting a stop to further hostilities, but it also opens the practical possibility of the return of the refugees. At issue is a great area, stretching over a thousand kilometers, and it will now be necessary to determine specifically which villages the people can return to, if there is an infrastructure there, if they can work, sleep, eat there.

The Entire Line Free

[Crnjakovic] Who will make all the preparations, and why have they not been made yet? Namely, it would be logical that these plans would be completed parallel to the negotiations. Were they?

[Degoricija] Unfortunately, the state institution that would organize the return of the refugees and their life in the villages that have been empty for over two years does not exist yet. At the time, there was the Ministry of Restoration, which had gained very good experience in 1992, when people were returning to Pakrac, Lipik, or Gorice. I really do not know who will be doing that now. For instance, in the area of Jasenovac, or Novska, refugees can return to three villages: Tanac, Ustice, and Visnjica. In sector west, refugees can practically return to the villages behind Lipik and Pakrac now that this agreement on the cessation of hostilities has been signed. Clearly, this can not be done in an unorganized way; these people must have complete protection. Theoretically, refugees can return to Skabrnja, Islam Grcki, Smokovici, and Kasic, since that entire line is now free. The greatest value of this agreement is precisely that—the process of the refugees returning to their homes beginning.

[Crnjakovic] Who is to say when this will happen?

[Degoricija] That is what I would like to know!

[Crnjakovic] Nothing has been organized in practical terms?

[Degoricija] These people need material help. We had offices for return and restoration in municipalities, but I do not know if such offices have been organized in counties.

[Crnjakovic] Why has that not been done yet?

[Degoricija] No substitute has been found for the former Ministry of Restoration. The government will have to give initiative to some other institution that would take care of all this.

[Crnjakovic] You keep mentioning the protected areas. The public is afraid that this is the final "cementing" of the Cyprus syndrome.

[Degoricija] The Cyprus syndrome being created in Croatia is out of the question. Croatia has been given all the international guarantees that the normalization process must have three stages, the first relating to ceasefire, which I consider the most important one, and the last one regarding the political solution.

The Opening of the Highway

[Crnjakovic] How much time will there be between the first and second stage?

[Degoricija] The actualization of the second stage will follow within 10 days, or 14 at the longest. It is very important, and it relates to the preparation of the negotiations on economy and infrastructure. Specifically, that means that all the railroads and roads will be open, the electric power supply facilities repaired, and the water supply facilities open.

[Crnjakovic] Even the Knin railroad to Split?

[Degoricija] Of course! The Zagreb-Belgrade highway, and the Karlovac-Korenica-Obrovac-Zadar road too. There will probably be priorities in the process, as each side has its own, mostly different, priorities. For instance, the Serb side considers electricity important; for us it is the highway; for UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] it is the Zagreb-Knin-Split railroad; the Croatia's interest is to open all the water sources, so that Zadar, Sibenik, and Biograd can be supplied. Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia are especially interested in the opening of the oil pipeline. Therefore, in about two weeks, we will decide at the green table on the process of the economic and traffic normalization. When we do that, the third stage, relating to political negotiations, will follow.

[Crnjakovic] In your opinion, of all the miracles you have promised, which will happen first?

[Degoricija] They are no longer miracles; this is reality. I believe that the highway will open first, and the opening of the oil pipeline will follow, but I think that the water supply will not be late either. It is quite certain that many local roads will open immediately.

[Crnjakovic] Are you not afraid that the Serb rebels will stop the passengers, or the workers at the water pumping sites?

[Degoricija] Now, the issue is no longer fear, because now the guarantor is the international factor.

Sanctions Against Offenders

[Crnjakovic] However, theoretically, the possibility that someone will violate the agreement should be taken into consideration. Have provisions been made for this case?

[Degoricija] The international factors will impose sanctions.

[Crnjakovic] What kind of sanctions?

[Degoricija] We will see when the new Security Council resolution is passed, which will happen very soon. At any rate, Messrs. Redman and Galbraith said that the agreement should now be operationalized, and they will not spend too much time on it now that the agreements have been signed. Namely, we are in the "sign it or leave it" stage.

[Crnjakovic] Who will have civilian authority in the protected areas?

[Degoricija] In the first 14 days it will be UNPROFOR, along the whole length of the separation line, but, at the same time, 200 policemen will be organized on both the Croatian and the Serb sides. These policemen will bear the marks of the international community, and they will be supposed to prevent illegal actions; any crime, any unallowed action. They will act at the invitation of UNPROFOR in the area within a kilometer on each side of the demarcation line. No more than 50 policemen can be in one zone.

[Crnjakovic] Who will select them?

[Degoricija] Each side will give their list to UNPROFOR. UNPROFOR can erase a certain name or the entire list, or cross somebody off later if they carry out impermissible actions.

[Crnjakovic] But that means that, for instance, Serb war criminals can be on the list.

[Degoricija] No. UNPROFOR determines who will be entrusted with the task.

[Crnjakovic] Where will our army be?

[Degoricija] The infantry forces will withdraw 1 km from the frontline on each side. I have already explained the issue of the heavy weapons to the representatives.

[Crnjakovic] You said that the third stage was the political solution to the Serb issue in Croatia. Has that not been solved by passing the Constitutional Law on Minority Rights? Is that the most difficult part of the job?

[Degoricija] Everybody considers it to be the most difficult problem, but I do not. I believe that the most difficult part of the job was the stage of the preparations and the signing of the cease-fire agreement. It was the precondition for sitting down at the green table and discussing the political solution without being burdened by the war option.

The Six-Month Deadline

[Crnjakovic] When will the political solution be reached?

[Degoricija] I think that the deadline is six months, which is how long the UNPROFOR mandate has been extended for. If we do not reach it by then, the mandate will have to be extended again, for which the world has neither the willingness or the patience.

[Crnjakovic] The world does not, but do the local Serbs? They have often counted on this stalling.

[Degoricija] This may have been the case earlier, but no longer. If they had not been prepared for a political solution, they would not have sat down at the table and signed the cease-fire agreement. I think that they have the intention and the willingness to achieve peace through political means. The Serbs are prepared for a political solution.

[Crnjakovic] Without new conditions and blackmail?

[Degoricija] I think so, although I would not rule out the possibility of small corrections being made.

[Crnjakovic] We will not talk of a historical agreement, but I will ask you a very specific question: Will the refugees soon return to Glina, Petrinja, Vukovar....?

[Degoricija] Absolutely!

[Crnjakovic] When?

[Degoricija] I firmly believe that it will happen within the next six months.

Defense Ministry Denies Greek Troop Movements

NC0904154494 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio Network in Greek 1500 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Our Skopje correspondent Takis Dhiamandis has reported that the Defense Ministry of Skopje [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] has denied reports about an alleged concentration of Greek armed forces along its northwest borders. These reports have been circulating for the past few days. Moreover, it was one of the issues Skopjean President Kiro Gligorov raised in his interview with the French newspaper LE MONDE.

Tension was noticed in Skopje last night after reports began coming from Gevgelija, which is near the border, about the movement of a Greek tank column. The Defense Ministry of Skopje issued a statement late last night that stressed that these reports are not consonant with the facts.

VMRO-DPMNE Cited on Visit to Bulgaria

AU0904154294 Skopje MILS-NEWS in English 8 Apr 94

[Unattributed report: "VMRO-DPMNE Disassociates Itself From Its Candidate"]

[Text] The statement by the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity [VMRO-DPMNE] candidate Branko Sinadinovski on chances that November elections in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] will be carried out in a "Romanian" recipe for democracy, [word indistinct] a lot of [word indistinct] in political circles in Macedonia. His party VMRO-DPMNE disassociated itself from his statement at yesterday's press conference. Party President Ljupco Georgievski stated "We disassociate from the statement on impossibility to win power through democratic means." The press-conference was mainly organized to report on his party's delegation three-day visit to Bulgaria. They said the visit took place on an invitation by the "Fatherland Alliance," which is a non-government organizations. President Ljupco Georgievski and vice-president Dosta Dimovska met with a number of parliament and non-parliament parties, with President Zhelyu Zhelev, Parliament President Aleksandur Yordanov, and the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Church. They stressed Bulgaria has shown bigger interest for closer political and economic ties with Macedonia, as compared with 1992. In regard to the Bulgarian position in the Balkans, VMRO-DPMNE representatives informed the Serbian Academy of Science and Art and Serbian President Milosevic Advisers have offered Bulgaria to divide Macedonia between the two countries, but Bulgaria fully supports the independence of Macedonia and its nation [sentence as published]. In reference to the meeting with the Bulgarian Church Holy Synod, Ljupco Georgievski said they "met with strict views" concerning acknowledgement of the independence of the Macedonian Church, on basis of their obligation to respect the canons and their loyalty to the Romanian, Greek and Russian Orthodox Church.

Besides its party interests, VMRO-DPMNE represented above all the Macedonian state interests in Bulgaria, representatives said at the press conference.

Demonstrators Demand Resignation of President

AU0904161494 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Ljubljana, April 9 (AFP)—Some 5,000 demonstrators took to the streets here Saturday to call on the country's president and prime minister to quit, and for fresh elections.

The demonstration was called by opposition parties, the conservative Popular Party and the extreme right-wing Slovene National Party, which accuse President Milan Kucan and Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of following communist policies.

Many Slovenians are also angry at the dismissal two weeks ago of the country's independence hero and Social Democratic leader Janez Jansa from the post of defence minister by the coalition government.

Jansa addressed the crowds saying he would soon return to power, calling on all opposition groups to support him.

The only government representative to take the stand was Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle, who was booed by the protestors when he called for a "fight against corruption, but only through democratic and legal means." The demonstrators later dispersed peacefully.

Drnovsek on Recognition, Domestic Situation

AU0804192394 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Dr. Janez Drnovsek, prime minister and president of Liberal Democracy of Slovenia, dedicated the first part of today's news conference to the international activity of our country. According to him, Slovenia has won considerable recognition recently. Brussels supported our country's becoming an associate member of the European Union, while NATO, after the signing of the Partnership for Peace agreement, expressed full readiness for cooperation with us. Praise for the improving economic situation could also be heard from the leading international economists. The prime minister also analyzed the domestic political situation thoroughly. Sandi Frelih reports:

[Begin recording] [Frelih] [passage omitted] Regarding the political situation, the prime minister says that, after last night's departure of the Social Democrats from the government, all three major parliamentary parties are analyzing the situation, by which they will try to redefine the relations between the coalition partners in such a way that the coalition could function until the end of its mandate.

[Drnovsek] A wider parliamentary support suits me, as prime minister, more—therefore, the support of all three biggest parties, which gives me a certain majority in the parliament. Of course, all this is on the condition that their mutual differences can be settled in such a way that the efficient functioning of the government and parliament would be possible. If this wider option does not materialize—that is, if one of the partners can no longer participate in the tripartite coalition—we will consider the next best option, that is, the option that would secure the most stable work of the government.

[Frelih] [passage omitted] When asked about the participation of the Christian Democrats as a government party at the anticorruption rally, Drnovsek replied that the party president, Lojze Peterle, had assured him that the rally was not a meeting directed against the government.

[Drnovsek] [words indistinct] the assurances that the president of the Christian Democrat,s Mr. Peterle, gave to me—that is, that if the party takes part it will under no circumstances participate in an antigovernment meeting because it is a government party and bears the responsibility for all the hitherto events, and so does Mr. Jansa, who was a member of this government for four years and who, because of the duration of his mandate and his post, had more scope to influence affairs than I had in my two years of work in this government. Mr. Peterle, too, enjoys a rather long mandate in this government as do other Christian Democrats. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Federal

Army Warns of Consequences of Air Strike

LD1104122594 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1155 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, 11 April (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Army's General Staff today stated that the bombardment of civilian and military targets in the Srpska republic carried out by the NATO air force last night was an act that might bring about unforeseeable military consequences.

The Yugoslav Army is following the developments caused by this aggressive act. Bearing in mind the latest circumstances, all necessary measures have been taken to protect the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Army's General Staff says in its statement.

Churkin: 'New Situation Created' by Attack

LD1004213694 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2110 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—Vitaliy Churkin, Russian President Yeltsin's special envoy for Yugoslavia and Russian deputy foreign minister, arrived in Belgrade this evening.

Upon his arrival, Churkin said that a new situation has been created after the attack launched by NATO planes on Serb positions near Gorazde.

The Russian president's special envoy stressed that he would be in contact with Moscow during the night. Churkin is expected to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic tomorrow. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that Churkin is planning to visit Zagreb and Sarajevo where he is expected to meet Croatian and Muslim officials.

Russia To Urge UN To Lift FRY Sanctions

LD0804132394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1145 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Jagodina, 8 Apr (TANJUG)—Democratic Party Chairman Zoran Djindjic told Jagodina Radio today that Russia will raise the issue of lifting the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the UN Security Council within a month.

"During our visit to Russia we drafted a request, which expresses joint views of all leading Russian parties as regards Yugoslavia, demanding that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation raise the issue of lifting the sanctions at the UN Security Council," Djindjic said, adding that he had received assurances that a majority in the parliament would vote for this document, about which the Yugoslav public will be informed either today or tomorrow.

"Russians have a clear interest to show their teeth to the West on the example of Yugoslavia, and to show that Russia has not lost the position of a superpower. They will do it not because of the Serbs, but because of Russia," Djindjic said.

Jovanovic Views Bosnian Conflict, Sanctions

AU0904200094 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1925 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Interview with Vladislav Jovanovic, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia minister of foreign affairs, by Bucharest Radio correspondent Dana Popescu in Belgrade on 8 April—recorded, in Serbo-Croatian with superimposed Romanian translation]

[Text] [Popescu] Let us talk about the efforts made to settle the Yugoslav crisis. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated a few weeks ago that there exist privileged relations, such as the one between the Germans and the Croats, the Americans and the Muslims, and the Russians and the Serbs. Do you think Kozyrev is right, and if so, in which way do such relations influence the peace negotiations?

[Jovanovic] That is a simplified assessment of the facts, because there are no such things as privileged relations, but rather merely interests. Privileged relations exist only in the sense that relations are based on common interests. In our case, we believe that as a consequence of the outbreak of the Yugoslav crisis, the interests of foreign powers suddenly increased in the Balkans. Above all, this is most displayed by Germany, which unfortunately bears the greatest part of the responsibility for the tragedy that is happening to us. Besides that, one can now also witness the massive penetration of the United States and Turkey. Russia is a country that is traditionally interested in the Balkans and it will always maintain that interest, because the Balkan region is close to their political and geographic consciousness and important for their own security. As far as we, as a country and a people, are concerned, we are the major victims of the Yugoslav crisis, because from the very beginning we have done everything possible to maintain the former Yugoslavia and to prevent secession as an action directed against people who decided to stay in Yugoslavia. Unfortunately, we did not succeed and that is why difficulties emerged that are now unfolding before our very eyes, especially in Bosnia or Krajina.

As far as privileged relations are concerned, above all we are believers in the idea that the international community should adopt a fully unbiased, objective, and non-selective stance with respect to the Yugoslav crisis. That would be the best way of taking into consideration the equal rights of all the parties in the Yugoslav crisis and respecting the legitimate interests and rights of all the peoples who once made up Yugoslavia. We do not expect anyone to be on our side and against others. What we ask for and expect from all countries is that they be on the side of justice, facts, and the truth, and that, by adopting an unbiased stance, they contribute to finding, through the parties

involved in the Yugoslav crisis, the proper path leading to rapid settlement [of the conflict].

[Popescu] The normalization of relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia is, in the opinion of many people, the key issue of the crisis. That process has already begun with the opening of liaison offices in Belgrade and Zagreb. How do you assess the future evolution of that process?

[Jovanovic] Our problems with Croatia began when Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia; Croatia's problems began as a consequence of its unilateral secession by means of force. What we have to do now is find ways to regulate relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the loyal part of Yugoslavia, and the other secessionist republics that are now independent states. We made the first step in that direction and we are interested in achieving full normalization. This can be achieved parallel to successful steps taken to eliminate the negative effects of their secession. First of all I mean Krajina, which now is under the protection of the UN forces, and the political status of which will eventually have to be established by direct negotiations between Knin and Zagreb.

Normalization is also related to the great problem of sanctions, because it is in the nature of sanctions that they prevent other countries from establishing political relations and achieving political objectives because of the sanctions. The establishment of diplomatic relations with Croatia, which also presupposes the establishment of normal economic relations, is theoretically and practically impossible as long as the sanctions stay in force. Therefore the sanctions, respectively the decision of the UN Security Council, actually represent an enormous obstacle for the normalization of relations in the Yugoslav region.

[Popescu] The sanctions were adopted in view of the situation in Bosnia. Yugoslavia has complied with the preconditions established for their lifting. Have any new preconditions been imposed lately?

[Jovanovic] The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina was merely formally the cause of the sanctions. Actually, the principal goal is a political one, as they are intended to make the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia capitulate. This means that it is denied the right to dominion over its own country and that it is expected to accept the mercy of foreign power centers. Apart from all this, we are making our own policy, which is directed at achieving peace and the peaceful solution of existing problems. We have complied with all preconditions, that is, the ones stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 757. However, meanwhile the situation in Bosnia contradicted their initial presuppositions on the basis of which they established the sanctions. The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina proved to be a classic civil war, and this has been officially admitted by everyone, including the Security Council. Yugoslavia has never had and does not have a single soldier on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina and could not perpetrate any aggression against that country. Furthermore, the Serbs of Bosnia-Herzegovina could not possibly act as aggressors against their own villages or towns. Civil wars are called civil precisely because they are not wars of aggression. However, certain countries, certain centers of power are trying to complicate and further prolong that crisis and are inventing new preconditions. This proves how little some desire the reestablishment of peace and how much they hope to exploit the situation in Yugoslavia in order to more deeply infiltrate with their interests in this area and achieve their geostrategic goals. There are no grounds, neither official nor political, to link the sanctions to any other issue except the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Any attempt to do otherwise would sabotage the peace efforts to halt the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Popescu] Still, in the last few days Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic declared he was very optimistic. Would you comment on that?

[Jovanovic] Despite all the complications and hardships we are all experiencing as a consequence of the crisis in Bosnia- Herzegovina, we have to be optimistic. First because there is no such thing as a crisis or a problem that cannot be solved. And second, because the current situation is more favorable to achieving peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina than, let us say, the situation six months or a year ago. The number of countries and international entities involved in the solution of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina—and that are interested in the reestablishment of peace, stability, and prosperity in this part of Europe—has increased significantly, whereas the number of countries interested in sabotaging peace is decreasing. The latter are now making their interests known and finding it increasingly difficult to achieve their goals. This is why they are now resorting to camouflaged means, presenting themselves as protectors of rights not related in any way to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina, all three of them, are fed up with war, they do not want war anymore. War is Now only desired by the fundamentalist leadership of the Muslim people, and that is in contradiction of the will and interests of their own Muslim people. They want this war because they are not free to make their own decisions and depend directly on the financial and political support they receive from abroad.

Parliamentary Head Assesses Moscow Visit

AU1004205994 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Interview with Radoman Bozovic, chairman of the Chamber of Citizens of the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia and "head of the Yugoslav delegation visiting Moscow," by Dusan Cukic in Moscow; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Cukic] Mr. Chairman, we are talking here in Moscow at the conclusion of the Yugoslav assembly delegation's visit to Russia. This is the first time since the introduction of sanctions that such a high-level parliamentary delegation is visiting a foreign country, paying an official visit to such a big country as Russia.

[Bozovic] This is correct. I would like to believe that this is not an accident but a result of the knowledge acquired by the deputies of various political factions in the Russian Supreme Soviet, where there is complete unanimity among political factions in understanding our crisis. This understanding especially came to prominence with the demand for the lifting of the sanctions against our country. We indeed encountered complete understanding and full support. This climate in the Russian Supreme Soviet is of enormous importance and influence on changes in certain practical moves in Russian diplomacy. We also learned that from our talks with Mr. Kozyrev and his deputy Churkin. There is a new quality, I would say, in the understanding of our situation when it comes to the Russian legislature and the Russian Government.

Prior to this visit, this understanding had primarily been expressed by Russian parliamentarians. This time both of them told us that things are now moving, that events are simply moving, that these events are being moved by logic, because it is difficult to find someone here who understands why Yugoslavia, its citizens, and its economy, should be punished by sanctions and political isolation, and who could possibly benefit from this.

Therefore, the visit as a whole, and the talks with Chairman Ribkin and Minister Kozyrev, as well as a large number of political factions, have left us with the belief that the Russian public and Russian politicians have taken a more objective stand. This is in fact the point of our policy. Our policy is not to seek the support of Russia in order to punish others, to punish those who are against Serbian interests in this chaotic civil war, but to secure the same position in the peace process for the Serbian side that is being secured for the other sides.

[Cukic] Mr. Bozovic, you indeed had a very prudent, very specific, and if I may say, apparently productive program. In all these talks with all parties, ranging from the Communists to the Democrats, the parties on the extreme left and the parties on the extreme right, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in contacts with the representatives of the government—you and your delegation raised, I think, a new question, not only of the sanctions being lifted, but also of the return of Yugoslavia to international politics.

[Bozovic] Yes, this question, these questions are dependent on one another. The return of Yugoslavia and its reintegration into the politics of international institutions is of enormous importance, especially in the further course of the peace process, so that we are not in the situation of constantly being put on trial without having a chance to present facts, to present the truth, or in a way, defend ourselves with the facts. Therefore, it is important that the peace process brings about not only the lifting of the economic sanctions, but also the return of Yugoslavia in international institutions, which was fully accepted in talks in the Russian Parliament. We raised this issue in talks with Mr. Minister [not further specified] and other representatives of the government. It is indeed difficult to understand that it is necessary to maintain the blockade on the (?dialogue), the participation of Yugoslavia and Yugoslav representatives in international institutions.

[Cukic] All in all, if a reporter is allowed to conclude, the impression is that you are returning from this exceptionally important political parliamentary visit as an optimist.

[Bozovic] Optimism in politics, especially in the conditions under which we exist today, is something that is perhaps not good if there is no reason for it. However, I am an optimist in the sense that I am returning with the belief that people who until recently did not have a good enough understanding of the essence of our crisis understand it better today. Time has also done its part, and so has, I would say, a principled policy on the part of the Yugoslav and Serbian sides. The facts are gradually starting to be important in making political decisions.

Therefore I think that this parliamentary visit is important. As you said yourself, this is the first official visit by a Yugoslav parliamentary delegation since the introduction of the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

[Cukic] Thank you Mr. Bozovic for this interview for Dnevnik 2 program of the Serbian Television.

[Bozovic] Thank you.

'Stern Measures' Taken To Stabilize Dinar

LD0804130394 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1218 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, April 8 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government is taking stern measures against illegal foreign currency transactions in an effort to maintain stability of the national currency—dinar.

By the end of next week, the federal parliament is under summary procedure to adopt amendments to the law on foreign exchange operations. The amendments stipulate that buying and selling foreign currency at the rate higher than the official one is a criminal offense.

Under the government proposal, the law is to ensure a uniform rate of the dinar be applied in all financial transactions. The dinar is currently pegged to the German mark, one dinar to 1 German mark.

The issuing of the dinar is under strict control as of January 24, when the Federal Government launched a programme aimed at restructuring the monetary system and effecting economic recovery.

The new dinar, 100 percent covered with gold and foreign currency, was introduced at the time when the monthly inflation recording 313 million percent threatened to invite a total monetary collapse.

The emergence of an unofficial, so-called 'Staeetzung' exchange rate, in inter-company financial dealings was assessed by experts as a phenomenon jeopardizing the programme, although it has not become rampant.

Early in the week seven persons were arrested in Belgrade on grounded suspicion that they were involved in illegal trafficking of one million German marks at blackmarket exchange rate.

The Serbian Government, too, has announced a number of new measures aimed at stabilizing the dinar and the economy. Thus, Prime Minister Mirko Marjanovic said Thursday the 30-percent cut in public expenditure would be put on the Serbian parliament agenda.

He also said there would be a sizeable cut in the planned budget deficit. Many taxes are also to be lowered.

The biggest obstacle in the way of stabilization of economic and monetary flows is a total blockade imposed by the U.N. Security Council on May 30, 1992.

Serbia

Serbian Party Denounces NATO Air Strike

LD1004201494 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1949 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—The Democratic Party of Serbia said this evening that "the bombing of the Serb positions around Gorazde shows yet again that the international community, whose position is almost always voiced by its most powerful members, resorts to the worst possible course of action to reach peace in the former Bosnia-Herzgovina."

The statement says that daily UN Protection Force reports from the ground, as well as media reports, showed that the fighting around Gorazde was provoked by the Muslim forces and also that it was on a limited scale.

"In spite of this NATO, or rather those who irresponsibly pull its strings, showed with this attack against the Serb positions that they have war and not peace on their mind, and that they are not impartial but support one side in the conflict."

"The Democratic Party of Serbia regrets that the international community, having betrayed the role of a mediator, has through this action become a participant in the civil war in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina," the statement says.

Kosovo

Serb Army Deploys 'Large Forces'

AU0804171194 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1635 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Large Serbian Army forces, supplied with armored cars, tanks, and other military equipment, have been stationed in Hani i Elezit. These Serbian Army forces have also been deployed in Paldenice village near the Ramuka quarter. Transporters and other accompanying armaments have been placed in the trenches and are supplied with antiaircraft machine guns.

The Kosova Information Center reports that the Serbian soldiers and officers are performing military training and provoking the citizens of the area by raiding them.

Serb Police Raids Escalating, Albanians Harassed

AU0904201294 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer] Serbian repression and violence is escalating in Kosova. Recent reports confirm new raids and harassments of Albanians in many centers in Kosova. From Prishtina, Ramadan Mucolli:

[Mucolli] Reports of raiding many Albanian families under the pretext of searching for arms, apprehending family members and taking them to police stations, beatings, and harassments continue to arrive at the Kosova Information Center. There are also reports of Albanian youths being pursued with the intention of impressing them into the Serbian Army.

In the last two days, under the pretext of searching for weapons, many families have been raided in Paralluk, Terpeze e Ulet, and Shkarashnik villages in Malisheve; in Dumnice, Podujeve; Strespe, Vushtrri; Petrove, Shtime; Skenderaj, and Obilisht. After the raids, several family members were summoned to the police stations, violently detained, brutally beaten and mistreated.

After the raids, 70-year-old man Ismail Shaqiri, his son Sadri, and his nephew Bashkim from Dumnice were taken to the police station in Podujeve, where they were brutally beaten. Many were beaten and maltreated in Shtroce, Vushtrri; Taralluk; Shkarashnik, Malisheve; and Mitrovice.

Reports from Suharake inform that Ilir Vullaku's son was summoned in Ishor village with the intention of recruiting him into the Serbian Army. It is known that the police have also searched for the youngsters Rakip and Safet Bytyqi.

Reports from Rahovec confirm that Ymer Ahmetaj, counsel for education and chairman of the sub-branch of the Albanian Teachers' League for this commune, was taken to the police station and interrogated for four hours about the activity of the Pedagogical Institution in Gjakove and the work of Ramiz Sadiku High School in Rahovec.

Bukoshi Seeks 'International Protectorate'

AU0804203594 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Taking the floor at the international conference on the Balkans [in Istanbul], Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosova Dr. Bujar Bukoshi called on the United Nations, the Security Council, the CSCE, the United States, Russia, and all the governments of democratic countries to help Kosova to avoid the conflict and simultaneously asked from them to recognize the willpower of the people of Kosova for a free and self-determining existence.

Dr. Bukoshi told the participants at Istanbul conference that the Albanians of Kosova seek to realize their aspirations in a peaceful way, i.e., to be allowed to exert their political will in government. Such a peaceful movement is

a new thing for the Balkans and, if it brings results, it can but increase the hope of the Balkan peoples for a glorious future.

Prime Minister Bukoshi stressed that this would be a clear and fair signal that all the conflicts in the Balkans could be solved in a civilized way and not through the use of force.

Commenting on suggestions of some people that the Albanians of Kosova accept a similar autonomy to the one that has existed in 1974, Dr. Bukoshi said that this is the same as if we ask the Albanians of Kosova to remain under the Greater Serbia and the Serbian dictatorship—always subjugated, pursued, and agitated in every possible way and a colonial regime. Those who suggest this kind of autonomy simply give indications that they are not ready to deal with the regime of a dictator. The question of the people of Kosova is not simply a case of secessionism. The state of which it was a part has been dismantled and no country deriving from it can incorporate others within its own borders without their own will.

Further on, Dr. Bukoshi said that the international community should strengthen sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, while their eventual lifting should be conditioned with the achievement of an acceptable solution for all the problems of the Yugoslav crisis, including Kosova as well.

Kosova should be demilitarized and the democratic institutions be turned back to it. A kind of international protectorate should be installed in Kosova, Dr. Bukoshi underlined, stressing that Kosova should be considered by the Balkan neighboring countries as a regional problem, and not as an internal affair of Serbia, so that these countries play a more constructive role, because even their peace can be endangered.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosova Dr. Bujar Bukoshi said that only in this way will the necessary conditions be created to participate in the negotiations on Kosova equally and without preconditions. On the contrary, the future will be uncertain and unpredictable.

Closing, Dr. Bukoshi said that in the name of the Government of Kosova, we have the mandate to give life to the people's will, and we will continue to do this.

Rugova: Repression, Persecution Continues

AU0904182694 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT Nr 331 in English 8 Apr 94

[Unattributed report: "From the Press Conference of President Rugova in Prishtina"—issued by the Democratic League of Kosovo]

[Text] Repression throughout Kosova has been continuing unabated during the past week, too, President Rugova said speaking to journalists today in Prishtina. New political trials against nine Albanians have been announced, he said, adding that persecution against political activists was increasing.

"Serbian authorities have been doing everything possible in order to recolonize Kosova. Refugees from Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia have been brought in Kosova to be settled permanently," President Rugova said. As to this, President Rugova called on the UN Commissioner for Refugees that these people be treated as what they really are, war refugees, and not be used for colonization of Kosova. "If this is [words indistinct] stands otherwise we will consider that there is [words indistinct] Kosova, which would be very tragic," President Rugova said.

In spite of continued violence, Kosova is present on the international level. In this respect, President Rugova mentioned the statement of the U.S. General Staff Chief, Shalikashvili, who said during his visit to Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] that the international military presence in Macedonia is a preventive for Kosova. President Rugova said, speaking on international aspects of the Kosova issue.

"We continuously stress that an independent and neutral Kosova would be the best solution for both Albanians and the others, a Kosova which would be open to both Albania and Serbia. Having in mind the situation prevailing in Kosova, and with the wish to prevent an escalation of violence, we demand international protection," President Rugova concluded his comments.

Replying to a comment on possible prospects for dialogue, President Rugova said: "Naturally, we stand for a genuine dialogue with a third party presence. We have made attempts to negotiate the educational issue within the Geneva Conference, but unfortunately negotiations failed."

The correspondent of the Belgrade-based BORBA asked for President Rugova's comments on the rumors that Prime Minister Bukoshi has allegedly offered resignation, to which President Rugova replied:

"There is no conflict. The government was established three years ago. It is normal to discuss the activity of the government in a democratic system. We never asked for Prime Minister Bukoshi's resignation."

[Words indistinct] from the Istanbul conference on the Balkans, Dr. Rugova said that it was an important conference and hoped that the final document would include real attitudes toward Kosova.

The correspondent of the BBC asked whether there were any plans of completing the Government of Kosova, and if so, did it mean a replacement of those making the government presently. President Rugova said that under the given circumstances "we have set up a combined system, by utilizing also party organization, such as LDK [Democratic League of Kosovo], peasants, and parliamentary parties. We have established medical institutions, educational, and solidarity institutions. It is natural that the wish of the people is to have all the institutions, but the situation has made us use combined systems which is proving to function."

President Rugova replied to many other questions put forward by a large number of journalists covering today's press conference.

'No Conflict' Between Government, LDK

AU0804194594 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer] There is no conflict at all among the Government of the Republic of Kosova, the Kosova Democratic Alliance [LDK], and the president of the republic, President of the Republic of Kosova Dr. Ibrahim Rugova said to reporters in Prishtina today. A report by our reporter Sherif Konjufca:

[Konjufca] Kosova, an independent and neutral state, simultaneously open to Albania and Serbia, is the most lucky solution for both Albanians and Serbs. However, to avoid armed conflicts in this area, the president of the Republic of Kosova said at a meeting with reporters, we once again reiterate our demands that Kosova be placed under international protection.

Asked whether there exists a conflict between the prime minister, the LDK, and the president, Mr. Rugova answered that such a conflict does not exist. The government has worked in very difficult conditions, partly abroad and partly in the country, but it has acted in cooperation with us. Under the present situation, it is very normal and reasonable to complete the government with the most creative people. For this, there exists a disposition by the majority of the Albanian political parties in Kosova, whose willpower will be outlined in their coordinating council, but cannot assume the government prerogatives.

Mr. Rugova said that as chairman of the republic, I have prerogatives as well as an obligation to think about the completion of the government and other bodies that will assist it. The best work in this situation is that regarding national political capital questions, we have reached a consensus with all political parties, and this makes us stronger.

Asked about the importance of the international conference on the Balkans, which is being held in Istanbul, President Rugova said that this is the first time such a meeting is being held, in which the Balkan problems are being examined in a complex way and in a historic, actual, and future aspect.

The delegation of Kosova led by Mr. Bukoshi is attending this conference, among experts from 26 countries. Meanwhile, we are expecting much from the conference's final statement.

Talking about the forms of the Serb violence against Albanians, Mr. Rugova particularly pointed out the eviction of Albanians from their homes and other forms of the colonization of Kosova with Serbs and Montenegrins. He mentioned cases of the division of 150 hectares of social land in Kline for Serbian refugees from Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina and the decision to erect 220 houses for them in the Istog commune. For the Serb refugees from Albania, whom the Serbian installed power is placing in Junik village and in several Gjakove villages, President Rugova said that we will ask the UN High Commission for Refugees to treat them only as temporary refugees, and not as elements for the colonization of Kosova. Otherwise, Mr. Rugova said, we will consider the Commission to be responsible for violently changing the ethnic structure of Kosova.

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